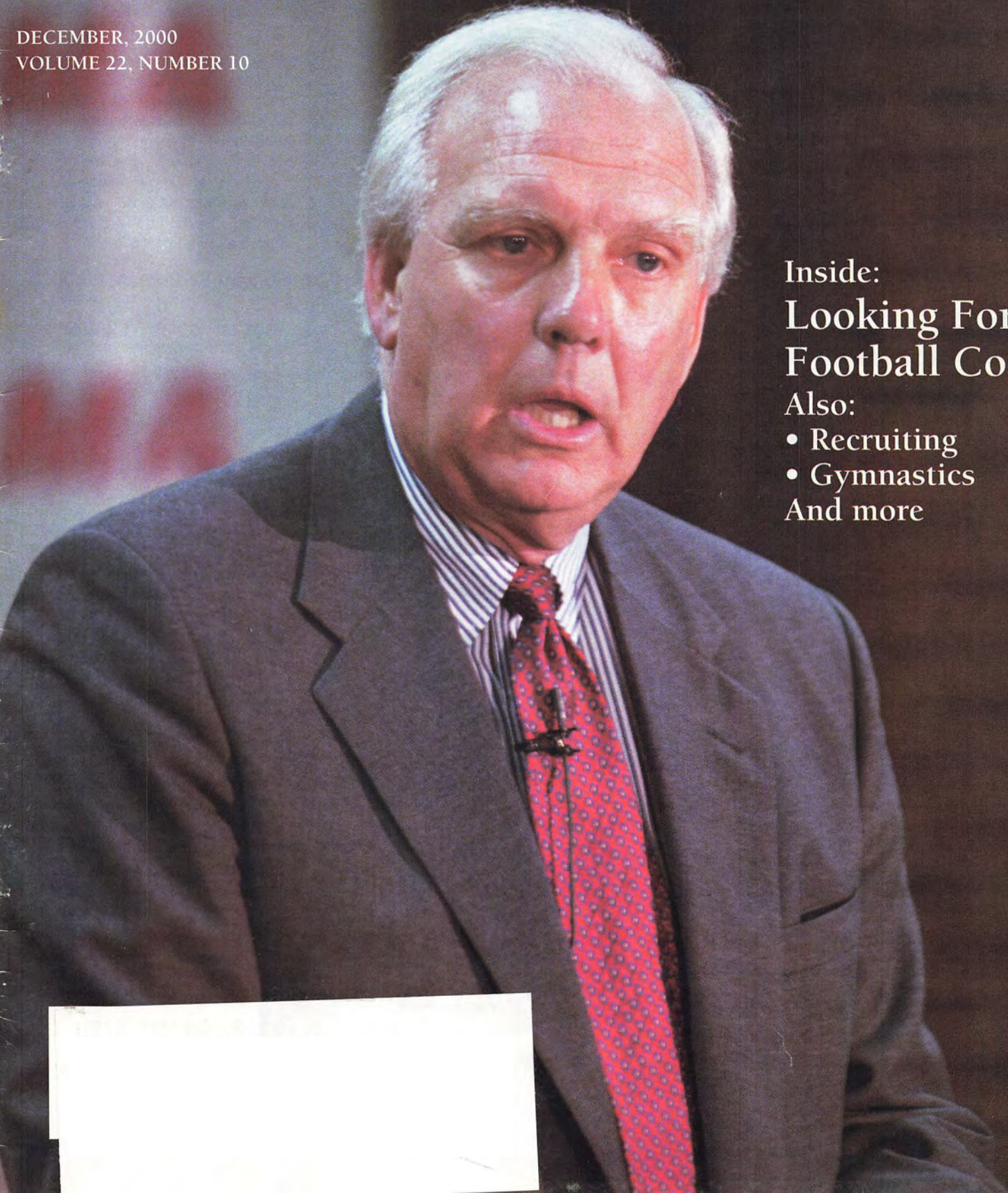


INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

DECEMBER, 2000
VOLUME 22, NUMBER 10



Inside:
**Looking For A
Football Coach**

Also:

- Recruiting
- Gymnastics

And more



THE ARTWORK OF

Daniel A. Moore



University Market

University Market is a look back at the artist's work while attending the University of Alabama as well a nostalgic reflection of this popular 1970's Tuscaloosa landmark. Even though the appearance of the building has changed, the old market can live in our hearts forever with this beautiful, signed and numbered fine art print. Limited to 1,100 prints.

Regular Edition: \$125.00
Signed and Numbered edition of 1,000

Artist's Proofs: \$250.00
Signed and Numbered edition of 100

©2000 New Life Art, Inc.

M·E·M REPLAY™

VISIT US ON THE WEB:

www.newlifeart.com



Framed size:
13" x 13.5"

Push the button
to hear the radio
play-by-play as
it happened!

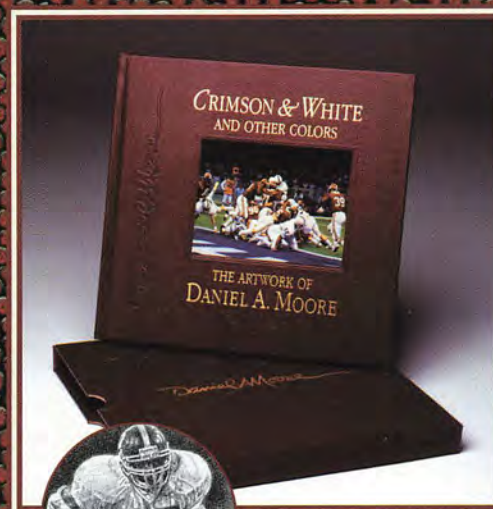


The Sack w/ voice module... \$125.00
The Kick w/ voice module.... \$125.00

New Life Art, Inc.

3600 Lornaridge Drive
Birmingham, AL 35216

Shipping and handling charges will apply.
Alabama residents add 8% sales tax.
All orders subject to availability.



****Example of original pencil drawing featured in the Artist's Edition books. Each book contains a different drawing!**

Limited Edition: (as shown) \$279.00
Leather bound edition of 1,979 S/N books.

Artist's Edition: \$2,000.00
**Leather bound edition of 79 S/N books.

Call anytime to order:

MC / VISA / AMEX

1-800-735-2787

ow to say Merry Christmas all year through...

Christmas will be here before you know it.

Don't the special people on your list deserve a special present? Give a subscription to 'BAMA magazine and say merry Christmas all year through! Your Crimson Tide fan friends will love the in-depth coverage of Alabama football—recruiting, players and players-to-be, coaches, Tide tradition, the story behind the story; and all the other sports as well. You even get an attractive gift card sent free with every 'BAMA subscription you give. 'BAMA...the perfect gift for happy holidays happily ever after.

1-800-713-2261

Give 'BAMA for a very merry Christmas.

Clip and mail to 'BAMA Magazine, P.O. Box 6104, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-6104

☐ Yes! I want to give my friends who love Alabama football something really special. Send a full year (10 full-color magazines and 14 newsletters mailed first class) of 'BAMA to the people listed below. I'll pay only \$35 for each gift subscription (Alabama residents add \$2 sales tax). Overseas add \$10. A gift announcement card will be sent free with every gift subscription I order.

☐ Yes! Enter a subscription for me, too!

☐ Payment enclosed

☐ Visa

☐ MasterCard

Please Print

Card# _____ Exp. _____

Signature _____

My Name _____

Address _____ Day Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Gift #1

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Gift #2

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



P.O. Box 866104
Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0054
(205) 345-5074
FAX (205) 345-1260
E-Mail: BamaMag@aol.com
For subscriptions: 1-800-713-2261

Editorial & Staff Directory

Publisher: Lynne McNair
Editor: Kirk McNair
Assistant to the Publisher: Vera Dowdle
Circulation Director: Mary Ellen Palardy
Photo Editor: Barry Fikes
Associate Editor: J.E. Lisby
Artist: Dan Proctor

Contributing Writers:

Tom Culpepper, Peter Edmund,
James Edwards, Donna Fromme,
John Hayden, Ted James, Jess Nicholas,
Shannon Terry, Andrew Varble II, Tim Watts

Contributing Photographers:

Butch Dill, Kaka Gidley, Kent Gidley,
Spectrum-Southeast, University of Alabama

Computer Consultant:

Stuart McNair, The McNairs@hotmail.com

Publishing Information

'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE
(USPS 489-470; ISSN 0195-0975) is published monthly for ten months from August to May by College Sports Publications, Inc., 2116 8th Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401. Editorial office is located at 2116 8th Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401-2134.

POSTMASTER: Send change of address to 'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE, P.O. Box 866104, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0054.

Periodicals postage paid at Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and at additional mailing office. Subscription rate is \$35.00 per year. Foreign subscriptions \$10.00 per additional. Change of address: Six weeks advance notice, and old address as well as new required. Address all correspondence to: Post Office Box 866104, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35486-0054. Not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or photographs unless accompanied by return postage. Copyright © 2000 College Sports Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

'BAMA is an independent publication, not associated with The University of Alabama.

*Keep up with the Crimson Tide
at any time from your telephone!*



Hotline

Two Ways to Dial!

1-900-860-1979

or Toll Free at 1-800-390-5010*

***Same Great Information. Same Cost.**

**With our new credit card system you can access the 'BAMA
HOTLINE from hotels, pay phones, work,
and 900 Line-Blocked numbers.
VISA and MasterCard accepted.**

Charge is \$1.59 per minute

**Callers under 18 obtain parents' permission
24-Hour Service**

Calls may be made from TouchTone or rotary telephone

RECRUITING INFORMATION

Updates (Selection 5) by 8 p.m. CT Sundays
Daily Updates begin January 7

UPDATES ON ALL BAMA SPORTS

Updates (Selection 4) within an hour of the completion of men's basketball games and weekly updates by 8 p.m. CT Sundays

FOOTBALL UPDATES

Daily updates (Selection 2) and Weekly updates (Selection 3)
will resume with spring practice in March
Football information until then will be on the All-Sports Update (Selection 4)

A service of 'BAMA Magazine
2116 8th Street Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401 (205) 345-5074

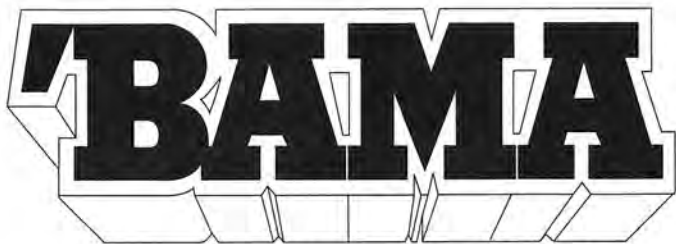
CHARTER MEMBER

CSPA

College Sports
Publishers Association

P.O. Box 13515
(352) 372-1215

Gainesville, FL 32604
FAX (352) 372-2283



INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

DECEMBER, 2000

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 10

Contents

On The Cover: Alabama Athletics Director Mal Moore is currently involved in the most important task he will have, that of finding a new football coach for the Crimson Tide. Moore made the decision in late October that Mike DuBose would not be retained for next season. See Page 8.

University of Alabama Photo by Kent Gidley



Page 12

Moore A Committee Of One: Search On For Football Coach

8

The search is on for a new head football coach after it was announced that Mike DuBose would not be retained for the 2001 season. Athletics Director Mal Moore is a search and sign committee of one to find the right man to lead Bama football.

by Kirk McNair

Jarret Johnson: Looking For Better Days In Future

12

Although sophomore defensive lineman Jarret Johnson had a good season personally, he was disappointed in the 2000 Alabama football season. He expects better things ahead.

by Kirk McNair



Page 14

Alonzo Ephraim: He Thinks Learning Year Will Help

14

Alonzo Ephraim has had very little playing time in his first two seasons at Alabama, but he is considered the front runner to be the starting center on Alabama's 2001 football team.

by J.E. Lisby

Gymnastics Outlook: As Usual, It Looks Very Good

16

Alabama has been a national power since Sarah Patterson became head coach 23 years ago, and this appears to be one of the Crimson Tide's strongest teams ever.

by Andrew Varble II

Track & Field Outlook: Progress Expected To Continue

20

Alabama began a rebuilding process in its track and field program in 1997 and that has resulted in the Crimson Tide men's and women's teams returning to national prominence. These men's and women's squads should again be very good.

by Andrew Varble II



Page 16

Football Prospects: Skill Players In Southeast In Picture

23

Although the Alabama football recruiting situation is an unusual one as the Crimson Tide will have a new head coach next year, Bama remains involved with some of the top players in the Southeast. Here is a look at some of the top skill position players in the region.

by James Edwards

Early Signees: Tide Sports Add Quality Performers

28

Alabama sports (other than football) began adding new signees in the early November signing period. Men's basketball, particularly, added high profile signees for next season, but other sports were also helped by quality additions.

by Tim Watts and Donna Fromme



Page 23

The Departments

Scorecard	6
Winter Sports Schedules	30

BAMA SCORECARD

Football Commitments

The football recruiting process for Alabama is different this year than most. With the transition from one head coach to another will come a change in most or all of the assistant coaches. However, whereas Mike DuBose ended all duties with the conclusion of the Auburn game, the assistants are under contract and will continue to work until they find employment elsewhere. That work consists of only one task: recruiting.

What do these lame duck assistants tell the prospects? Well, forget any conspiracy theories, soon-to-be-dismissed coaches bitterly steering prospects away from Alabama. For one thing, for months they have been telling these same prospects why The University of Alabama is the only place to be. For another, if they want to continue in the lucrative college coaching field they must continue to work hard for their employer.

Another question concerns commitments. Much is made of top prospects committing to a school. But that school, and more particularly that coaching staff, first had to commit a scholarship to that prospect. In most instances, a new staff arriving will honor the offers of the previous staff. And while the assistant coach and head coach may have been factors in a prospect choosing a school, generally those are not the only reasons, or even the primary reasons, for the selections.

Alabama's commitment list may have dwindled a little in recent weeks. Although tight end/defensive end Brandon Washington attended the Alabama-Auburn game on an unofficial visit, the Tuscaloosa Central star said earlier that he was reneging on the commitment he made to Alabama last summer. Washington said he is now committed to LSU, which wants him as a defensive lineman. Washington was quoted as saying that Alabama had plans to use him on defense and that Bama has plenty of defensive linemen. He also said the dismissal of DuBose and the dismal Alabama season were not reasons for his defection. However, a new coach may make a new impression on Washington.

Washington may not be the only prospect who changes his mind about Alabama. Offensive lineman Von Ewing of Charles Henderson High School in Troy has waffled in the past, indicating he is more interested in Michigan than Alabama, where he committed last summer. Linebacker David Peterson of Bristol, Florida, who signed with Alabama two years ago, then played at Coffeyville (Kansas) Junior College the past two seasons, had announced his intention to re-sign with Alabama this year. However, he has since indicated that commitment might be contingent on whether Ronnie Cottrell is retained as Alabama's recruiting coordinator.

Others who have committed to Alabama are offensive tackle Atlas Herrion, a native of Daphne who is now playing at Dodge City (Kansas) Community College; offensive lineman Mark Sanders (brother of Tide red-shirt freshman punter Matt) of Ashville; wide receiver-kick return specialist Brandon Brooks of Birmingham Shades Valley; and wide receiver Brian Bass of Fayette, who is enrolled at a school in Florida this year and not playing football.

And Alabama's football staff is actively involved in the recruitment of quarterback Brodie Croyle of Westbrook Christian in Rainbow City. Croyle, who missed this year after suffering a knee injury in the opening game, is considered the nation's top quarterback prospect. He will enroll in the school of his choice in the spring semester and is expected to be able to participate in spring practice. Among other schools he is considering are Miami, Oklahoma, LSU and Florida State, with FSU considered the Tide's top competition. Croyle is the son of former Tide player John Croyle and the brother of Reagan Croyle, a former Bama women's basketball player and 1999 Alabama Homecoming Queen.

Basketball Tickets

Alabama has two in-state, out-of-Tuscaloosa men's basketball events coming up. The Tide will play Akron in the Arby's Hardwood Classic at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center at 7:30 p.m. December 9 (with Auburn playing Detroit Mercy at 5 p.m. as part of the double-header). A week later the Tide will play in the Coors Classic at the Mitchell Center in Mobile. On December 16 Bama will play North Texas following the South Alabama-Louisville game at 6:35 p.m. CST.

Tickets for the Hardwood Classic are available through TicketMaster in Birmingham at (205) 715-6000. Tickets are \$20 and \$14 each, and there are also ticket plans available through Birmingham area Arby's restaurants.

Tickets for the Coors Classic are \$25 lower level and \$20 upper level. The South Alabama Ticket Office at (334) 460-6047 is open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. CST for orders.

South Alabama is host team for the classic. It probably wasn't too hard to entice Alabama into the tournament since Bama Head Coach Mark Gottfried is a native of Mobile and the son of South Alabama Athletics Director Joe Gottfried.

Volleyball All-SEC

For the second consecutive year, Alabama volleyball players Michelle Green and Monica Morales were named All-Southeastern Conference in a vote by the league coaches.

Green, a 5-11 outside hitter from Rolla, Missouri, garnered her second first-team

honor while Morales, a 6-0 outside hitter from Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, was selected to the second team for the second time.

"Both of these are well-deserved honors," said Alabama Coach Judy Green, no relation to Michelle. "They have been key performers for us during our successful season this year. I'm very proud of both of them. These awards not only recognize the play of Michelle and Monica, but it is also a reflection on how well our team played."

Alabama's all-time leader in kills and attempts, Green becomes just the second Tide player to earn multiple first-team All-SEC accolades in a career. She joins former Bama standout Nina Foster who earned back-to-back first team honors in 1994 and 1995. She led Alabama to the SEC Western Division championship and was named SEC Player of the Week three times. She ranks among the top ten all-time in SEC competition for career kills.

Morales, ranked among the career leaders in nearly every statistical category at Alabama, joins former Tide players Mavis Reed (1992-94) and Monica Davis (1996, 97) as back-to-back All-SEC second team selections.

In addition to earning All-SEC honors, Green was also named to the Verizon Academic All-America All-District IV first-team. Tide teammates Shelly Adamcik and Allison Lange were named All-District third team. Green now joins the rest of the first-team honorees on the national ballot for Verizon Academic All-America honors.

Alabama was 22-8, the 22 wins a school record, and 11-4 in SEC play before being eliminated in the SEC Tournament. The Tide was hoping for an invitation to the NCAA Tournament.

Volleyball Scholars

Alabama's 2000 volleyball team placed a league-best 12 women on the Southeastern Conference Academic honor roll. Named to the honor roll are Shelly Adamcik, Melissa Clark, Sarah Cotten, Kelly Fash, Katherine Gaudet, Michelle Green, Sarah Kreimer, Allison Lange, Monica Morales, Emily Sebastian, Bridget Studnicka, and Jen Wagner.

Soccer Honorees

Five Alabama soccer players were selected Academic All-SEC. They are LaTonda Eubanks, Michele Evans, Amanda Lewis, Kathleen Motheral and Kim Zarzour.

Sophomore defender Missy Keller was named second team All-SEC.

Baseball In December

Alabama Baseball Coach Jim Wells and his staff have conducted a Christmas Baseball Camp each year. This year's camp will be December 27-28 and is open to players in grades three through 12. For information,

contact the baseball office at (205) 348-2427.

Softball, Too

Alabama Softball Coach Pat Murphy and his staff will conduct fastpitch holiday clinics December 29-30. The clinics cover all fundamentals of hitting, pitching, throwing, fielding, and base-running. For more information, contact the softball office at (205) 348-4400.

Softball Captains

Seniors Kelley Askew and Melissa Bautista have been elected captains for the 2001 Alabama softball team. Askew is a catcher from Pasadena, Texas, while Bautista is a pitcher from Elk Grove, California. Alabama, which reached the College World Series last year, will open the season hosting the Bama Bash February 9-11.

Soccer Addition

Former Alabama goalie Amy Pseja has joined the Crimson Tide staff of Coach Don Staley for next season. Pseja, a 1996 Alabama graduate, was All-Southeastern Conference three years and all-region twice. Her most impressive season was 1994 when she posted 10 shutouts and turned in a goals-against-average of 0.50.

Pseja, who served as a graduate assistant at William-Patterson in New Jersey after leaving Alabama, will coach Bama goalies. She is the second former Tide player to be added to Staley's staff as she joins Nikki Smith.

Newton Honored

It's not unfair to say that C.M. Newton made his first real name in basketball as head coach at Alabama in the 1970s. However, he has gone on to fame in many other areas, most recently as athletics director at Kentucky before retiring earlier this year. Newton has received a number of honors, including induction into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. He served as president of USA Basketball from 1992 through 1996. And now he has been selected as recipient of the Edward S. Steitz Award.

The award recognizes an individual for outstanding contributions to international basketball. Newton will receive the award November 16 during USA Basketball's Annual Board of Directors dinner in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The award is named in memory of the longtime director of athletics at Springfield College (Massachusetts), who was recognized worldwide as an authority on the rules of basketball.

Award For Hays

For the second straight year, the University of Alabama's Jeremy Hays has been selected a finalist for the Anson Mount Scholar-Athlete Award sponsored by Playboy magazine in its annual December basketball issue which includes its Playboy All-America selections as well as its preseason top 25 picks.

The award recognizes achievement both in the classroom and on the basketball court.

Candidates are judged on scholastic and athletic accomplishments by the editors of Playboy. A donation of \$5,000 is made to the general scholarship fund of the winner's school.

This year's award went to Miami of Ohio's Mike Enslinger. The other finalists, all named honorable mention, include Hays, a senior from Boaz who is a three-time Academic All-Southeastern Conference award winner in addition to leading the Southeastern Conference in rebounding as a junior.

Papisan Out

Women's basketball sophomore forward/center Leigh Papisan is expected to miss the rest of this calendar year due to pain associated with exercise-induced compartment syndrome. Alabama team doctor Dr. Les Fowler performed out-patient surgery on Papisan at DCH in Tuscaloosa on November 9.

The injury is caused by fascia (fiber membrane that covers muscles) that is too tight on the muscle causing a restriction of blood flow and a pressure on nerve endings. The tightness causes numbness in the feet and legs. The surgical procedure consists of making a small incision near the shin and then separating the fascia from the muscle to relieve the pressure.

Tough Schedule

The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) has released its preseason WBCA/Summerville RPI Strength of Schedule poll and the Crimson Tide's 2000-01 slate was listed as the nation's 13th toughest. The SEC dominated the list with all 12 schools among the Top 31 (Auburn) and Tennessee, LSU, Georgia and Vanderbilt holding down the nation's top four spots. Twelve of Alabama's opponents for this season reached postseason play last year.

Pre-Season Picks

At Southeastern Conference Media Days, the Alabama men's basketball team was picked to finish second in the Western Division. The women's team was picked ninth in the league. (Women's play is not by division.) Tennessee was picked to win both men's and women's championships.

Bama sophomore Rod Grizzard was picked second team pre-season All-SEC.

Gymnastics Tickets

The Alabama gymnastics season begins with the Crimson Tide playing host to the prestigious Super Six Challenge on January 6. In addition to Alabama, the meet in Coleman Coliseum features Georgia, Florida, Stanford, Michigan and Penn State. Tickets for the Super Six Challenge and season tickets for gymnastics are now available by calling the Alabama ticket office at (205) 348-6161.

Alexander Foundation

Former Alabama football standout and current Seattle Seahawks rookie, Shaun Alexander has opened the Shaun Alexander Family Foundation office in Tuscaloosa. The foundation was established to help those in need. Proceeds benefit the RISE program,

John Croyle's Big Oak Boy's and Girl's Ranch, scholarships to The University of Alabama, and feeding needy families at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The Tuscaloosa office, located at 2205 Fourth Street, was donated by Darren Thomas of Clear Sound Productions.

For information on participating with Shaun in this endeavor, contact Michael Gurley of the Shaun Alexander Family Foundation at (205) 344-6615 or by e-mail at salf@tidefans.com

Bama Books

Christmas is the time for books, and Alabama athletics has always been a favorite topic of book writers. There are several new offerings this year.

"Crimson Classics" is an interesting concept that was put together by Patrick Smith and longtime Birmingham radio personality Lee Davis. This contains diagrams of 25 of the greatest plays in Alabama football history. In addition to a narrative of the situation and interviews with the players involved, there is an accompanying CD featuring the radio call for each play. Among the plays are the goalline stand against Penn State in the Sugar Bowl to win the 1978 national championship, the interception against Florida to win the inaugural SEC Championship Game in 1992, the last-second field goal by Van Tiffin to beat Auburn in 1985, Snake Stabler's run in the mud to beat Auburn in 1967, and Scott Hunter's pass to George Ranager to defeat Archie Manning and Ole Miss in 1969.

"The Crimson Tide" is an illustrated history of Alabama football. It is a large book, 9x12, 288 pages with 300 pictures (\$39.95). It is the work of Winston Groom, who wrote "Forrest Gump."

Wayne Atcheson, associate director of Tide Pride and for the past 15 years advisor to the Alabama Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter, has chronicled events in the lives of Alabama coaches and players in "Faith of the Crimson Tide." This is an inspirational book, available in most bookstores and by calling 1-800-430-8588 (\$15.95). John Croyle, the former Tide player who founded the Big Oak Ranch for neglected and abused children, wrote the foreword.

New South Books of Montgomery has published "A Gift Before Dying," the legacy of Robert "Rah Rah" Scott by Stephen Thompson with contributions by Alabama Head Basketball Coach Mark Gottfried. This is the story of the last year in the life of Scott, a former Tide basketball star and later assistant coach who died last year after a long bout with stomach cancer. Available in most book stores in Alabama or directly from New South ((\$24.95) at 1-334-834-3556.

And there is a rumor that Wimp Sanderson, the former Alabama basketball coach and current Birmingham radio personality, has now written one more book than he has read. His offering is "Plaid and Parquet, An Autobiography." The 320-page hard-cover book is available in bookstores in Alabama or for \$30 from Five Points South, P.O. Box 412, Chelsea, AL 35043.

Search On For Football Coach

by Kirk McNair

Beamer and Davis lead long list of possibilities

Here is everything that is known about the search for and acquisition of a new football coach for The University of Alabama:

Athletics Director Mal Moore is a committee of one for the search for and acquisition of a new football coach for The University of Alabama, and he's not saying anything.

All that follows is reasoned speculation about what Moore is doing and what may prove to be true. The questions involve not only "Who?" but "When?"

The background is this: Midway through this season Moore came to the conclusion that Mike DuBose did not have Alabama on a championship track. On October 31 Moore announced that DuBose would not be retained after this season. Moreover, Moore said that University President Dr. Andrew Sorensen had agreed that Moore would handle the search for a new coach without "benefit" of committee and that Moore would have the authority to pay fair market value (which is in excess of \$1 million per year) for a new coach.

Moore said that he expected Alabama's new coach to come from the ranks of current successful head coaches, but he also said he would not necessarily limit himself. It is not unreasonable to believe that a head coach in the National Football League or a former head coach at the college and/or professional level might be considered.

However, it is also believed that Moore's "short list" is likely to consist entirely of current college head coaches. And it will come as a surprise to no one who has had access to any news or gossip about the situation that the top names on that list are likely to be current competitors from the Big East Conference.

In alphabetical order, the top two candidates are believed to be Frank Beamer, head coach at Virginia Tech, and Butch Davis, head coach at Miami.

There has been speculation about whether head football coach at Alabama is a good job. It depends on

who is asked. Those who are successful college head coaches think it's a very good job.

For some reason *The Birmingham News* sought the opinions of a number of failed college head coaches and determined it wasn't such a good job. Gerry DiNardo, fired at LSU and now coaching in the XFL football league in Birmingham, said it was a good job only because it would pay well, perhaps \$1.5 million per year. Pat Dye, fired at Auburn, said the problem is Alabama fans have expectations that are too high, suggesting that "If they don't change their mindset, it may destroy the program." However, Dye did say the job also has the upside of a coach having everything he needs to compete for championships. Finally, Bill Curry, who was successful only at Alabama, losing big both at Georgia Tech and Kentucky, said it wasn't a good job because no one knows who is in charge.

One failed coach who has kept his finger on the pulse of college football is Mike Gottfried of ESPN. The former Pittsburgh coach considers the Alabama job to be a good one, according to the newspaper. It quoted Gottfried as saying, "When you look at jobs, you look at tradition, facilities, recruiting area, chance to win a national championship, chance to compete in your league. I think Alabama has everything."

Mississippi State's Jackie Sherrill, who insists he is not interested in the job at his alma mater but who most believe would walk from Starkville to Tuscaloosa for the position, said he thinks the man who is Alabama's next coach will be getting "a gold mine." Sherrill's point is that Alabama has recruited very well and that Bama has a large number of good, young players the next Tide coach will inherit. Some 16 starters return next year, although after a 3-8 season a large number of starters is not always desirable.

DuBose, who called it his "dream job" when he was hired in 1996, agrees with Sherrill. "This is a great job," he said. "There are 98 or 99 per cent of the schools out there who are trying to get to where Alabama is right now."

DuBose also said, "I know Mal Moore and I trust Mal Moore, and I know he will hire a great coach for The University of Alabama." DuBose said he would continue to be a supporter of the Crimson Tide and he had planned to address current players prior to the Auburn game to encourage them to remain at Alabama. (There has been virtually

no reliable report of any player planning to transfer.)

Other articles in *The Birmingham News* have credited anonymous "insiders" as believing that Davis, who has been head coach at Miami for six years, for expressing interest in the Alabama job only to get a raise at Miami. His package with the Hurricanes has been reported as anywhere from \$725,000 to \$900,000 per year—good pay, but not in the upper echelon of college coaching salaries.

However, DuBose was paid only \$381,000 and had a package estimated at less than \$800,000. He will continue to receive his salary through January 31, 2002. Most Bama assistants have contracts that end in June, but Recruiting Coordinator Ronnie Cottrell, Defensive Coordinator Ellis Johnson, and Quarterbacks Coach Charlie Stubbs have an additional year on their contracts.

The assistant coaches are continuing to recruit and Moore added himself as one of the permitted recruiters (replacing DuBose). While there has been speculation that one of the assistants might be named interim head coach, a more likely scenario is that the assistant coaches will report to Moore.

The timetable for getting a new head coach in Tuscaloosa is not as critical as some have suggested. Much of the recruiting work has been done by the previous staff. The final push in the Southeast is traditionally in January when prospects make official visits. There is no doubt that Alabama's new head coach won't be in place by early January. And it is almost certain he will be known before then.

One possibility frequently discussed in Bama circles is that Miami's Davis will be hired by Alabama and that the Hurricanes will make the Bowl Championship Series national championship game. That is not necessarily a complication for Alabama. It would not be a negative to point out that the new head coach's arrival was delayed because he was coaching in that title game.

Alabama's new coach will almost certainly have his team in some bowl game. Will he stay to coach his current team or leave immediately for his new job in Tuscaloosa? That would probably be up to the administration at his current school. Some colleges in recent years have asked the coach to leave and turned the team over to an assistant coach. Moore probably would encourage the new coach to finish the season with his team if he has that opportunity.



Butch Davis

While Moore may have Beamer and Davis (or Davis and Beamer) one-two on his list, if Moore is known to be in contact with one, the other may remove his name from consideration. Since the two are competitors in the Big East, one would not want to be considered the second choice to the other.

It's easy to understand why those two would be at the top of Moore's list.

Beamer, whose team crushed Alabama in the Music City Bowl two years ago, is a Virginia Tech graduate who has been head coach at his alma mater since 1987. Beamer, who turned 54 on November 18, was 9-1 with one game to play this year. The one loss this season had been to Miami. Going into this season Beamer had a 130-83-4 as a head coach.

Many credit Beamer's success to having quarterback Michael Vick, but he has been successful for many years using both the option game and the drop back passing offense. However, his main ingredient for success has been solid defense and extraordinary special teams play.

His career has been spent entirely in college football, at Maryland, The Citadel, Murray State, and now Virginia Tech. Among his assistant coaches at Virginia Tech are former Tide player Lorenzo "Whammy" Ward and former Bama Assistant Coach Danny Pearman.

Davis is in his sixth year at Miami, where he rebuilt a team that had been devastated by two events: one, the humiliating loss inflicted by Alabama in the national championship game at the end of the 1992 season, and by NCAA sanctions that took away some 31 scholarships. Davis had to come in and clean up the mess.

Davis, who celebrated his 49th birthday on November 17, is a head coach for the first time at Miami. He had previously been an assistant coach at Oklahoma State and Miami and with the Dallas Cowboys, where he also served as defensive coordinator before going to Miami in 1995. Although prior to this year Davis had the label of a coach whose team had not done well in big games, he cleared that reputation with impressive wins over Florida State and Virginia Tech.

Most believe that Beamer would have to be given an exceptional offer in order to consider leaving his alma mater. (He played at Virginia Tech 1966-68.) Davis, on the other hand, is thought to be amenable to leaving Miami, but the question could be whether he wants to leave for a job in the National Football League rather than another college. His name has been linked with the Washington Redskins and with the new NFL franchise in Houston.

What if Moore does not land Beamer or Davis? It is possible (though not likely) that one or both is not on his short list; or that both decline an offer. That would not necessarily mean a drop to a "B" list. A number of prominent candidates could be available, including Jackie Sherrill at Mississippi State.

Sherrill has won where it is not always easy to win, at Pittsburgh, Texas A&M, and now Mississippi State. When State defeated Alabama, 29-7, this year, Sherrill became the winningest coach in Bulldogs' history with 66 victories in 10 years. At Texas A&M he was 52-28-1 in seven years, while at Pittsburgh he was 50-9-1 in five years. He also coached one year at Washington State, going 3-8 in 1976, his first year as a head coach.

Sherrill completed his playing career at Alabama following the 1965 season as he played on two Bama national championship teams. He was to celebrate his 57th birthday November 28, and one reason he said he would not be a candidate for the Tide job is his age.

Earlier there had been speculation that Bama might be interested in either Bob Stoops at Oklahoma or Tommy Bowden at Clemson. Stoops, who had formerly been defensive coordinator at Florida, and Bowden, who had served as an assistant at both Alabama and Auburn, as well as head coach at Tulane, were never contacted by Moore. Meanwhile, both have been given lucrative new contracts to keep them in place.

Meanwhile, just about every college coach who has had success has been mentioned among the possibilities. They include:



Frank Beamer

Mike Belotti at Oregon, Jeff Bower at Southern Miss, Dennis Erickson at Oregon State, Dennis Franchione at TCU, Walt Harris at Pittsburgh, Sonny Lubick at Colorado State, Glen Mason at Minnesota, Rick Neuheisel at Washington, Bill Snyder at Kansas State, Joe Tiller at Purdue, Randy Walker at Northwestern and Bobby Wallace at Temple.

Coaches in professional football are also mentioned, headed by former Tide player Mike Riley. Riley has had success at the college level, in the Canadian Football League, and is now head coach of the San Diego Chargers, where he is not having good success this year. Other former Alabama players in pro football who have been mentioned include Ray Perkins, who once coached at Alabama and who is now an assistant coach with the Cleveland Browns; Richard Williamson, who was a legitimate candidate when Gene Stallings was hired and who is now assistant head coach and offensive coordinator of the Carolina Panthers and who was formerly head coach at Memphis State; and Sylvester Croom, who is offensive coordinator for the Detroit Lions, but who has never been a head coach. Croom was generally linked as possibly coming with Bobby Ross, the former Georgia Tech head coach who recently resigned as head coach at Detroit.

Also mentioned from the pro ranks has been Head Coach John Gruden of Oakland and Miami Offensive Coordinator Chan Gailey, former head coach at Troy State and Samford and also of the Dallas Cowboys.

There is seemingly no end to the list of candidates or to speculation about them. But by early December something should be announced.



**Go with
a proven
winner!**

*When it comes to printing and
promotional products EBSCO Media
is always ahead of the other
team. Call us. We'll help
you win at your game.*

1•800•765•0852



EBSCO MEDIA



THE ULTIMATE GAME DAY, ANY DAY *LUXURY SPORTS CONDOMINIUMS*

VISIT OUR NEWLY COMPLETED FURNISHED MODELS

612 13th Avenue at 8th Street and
900 13th Avenue, 600' from Bryant-Denny Stadium

Entertain guests, watch the action from your balcony, or join in the festivities in the Bama Club. It's all just a stone's throw from Bryant Denny Stadium when you own a GAMEDAY CENTER Sports Condominium!

Suites offer professionally coordinated furniture and accessories. Simply walk in and start entertaining! For business, for pleasure, Bama's Gameday Center is the ultimate in sports and year 'round UA accommodations. For floorplans, locations and additional information, call today, 205.366.1680 or 800.693.8204.

- ◆ Management/Optional Rental Program available for your suite
- ◆ Prices from \$80's to \$325,000's
- ◆ Private, assigned parking
- ◆ Owners' Private Club open game days and special weekends
- ◆ Conference room, catering, golf and concierge service



A GAMEDAY CENTERS Southeastern, LLC, Development. Marketed and Developed by Gleneagles Southeastern.

Jarret Johnson:

Looking For Better Days In Future

by Kirk McNair

Soph defensive lineman had good year, but bad Tide season has him anxious for 2001

Everyone, it seems, has thoughts about Alabama's next head coach. Crimson Tide defensive lineman Jarret Johnson hasn't thought too much about that, but he has thought about the coaches he is losing as Bama makes a change this year.

"This is tough," he said. "We like our coaches so much. I've talked to players at other schools who don't like their coaches, and that's important. Coach DuBose is a great guy and all the players are sorry for what's happened."

But Johnson, a sophomore who has started all season, understands that he'll soon have a new head coach and, possibly, a new position coach. "I hope we can get along with the next coach like we do now," he said. "It's a matter of personality, and I think that's more important than the schemes. If you like your coach and get along with him, I think you'll work harder. I don't mean he has to be a so-called 'nice guy.' I just mean you are probably going to work harder and play harder for a coach you get along with. And don't misunderstand: A coach can be tough and hard and you can still like him

and respect him because you realize he is doing the very best he can for the player and for the team."

Johnson said the players have paid a lot of attention to the various reports of a replacement for Head Coach Mike DuBose. "We don't worry about it, though," he said. "We know Coach Moore (Athletics Director Mal Moore) will take care of it."

He said Moore's first meeting with the team following the dismissal of DuBose "was encouraging and comforting. He apologized to the players for what was happening and he gave us his pledge that he would do his



As a sophomore Jarret Johnson was a leader statistically and emotionally on Alabama's defensive line. Johnson has some understanding of what went wrong in 2000 and is anxious for Alabama football to return to success.

Barry Fikes Photo

best to get the best man for the job. I think all the players are glad Coach Moore is doing this rather than a committee. He knows football and he knows this university and he knows what we need."

Johnson said that the players actually spend much more time with their position coaches than with the head coach. "All of the guys are hoping their coach is one who is kept by the new head coach, but realistically we know that's not going to happen for most of us," he said. "I definitely hope Coach (Lance) Thompson can stay, but we won't know about that until later."

Johnson believes that almost every player will return regardless of the coaching change. "I feel God put me here for a reason, and not just to be a football player," he said. "I love this team and I love this university and I wouldn't think about going anywhere else."

That feeling goes back many years. "I've always liked Alabama," Johnson said. "I was always an Alabama fan. I remember when I first started getting recruited and I was getting letters from colleges. And then I got that letter from The University of Alabama. That was a special day."

It continued when he made his recruiting trips. He went to Gainesville and Tallahassee, both not too far from his hometown of Chiefland, Florida. "And then," he said, "I came here. And I loved it. I'm sort of a country boy and these were more my type people. I loved the coaches and I loved the players and I loved everything about Alabama."

While Jarret was an Alabama fan, his family—which had its roots in Miami—were Miami Hurricanes fans, and he was, too. He was born in Miami and lived there for a few years. That loyalty changed during the Sugar Bowl at the end of the 1992 season. Jarret watched that game as Alabama, ranked number two in the nation, dismantled the number one rated Hurricanes, 34-13, to win the national championship. Jarret was a Bama fan.

Jarret had one other connection to the state of Alabama. His father, Ludwig, had gone to school and played football briefly at Marion Military Institute, an Alabama junior college. The elder Johnson, Jarret said, "got homesick" and went home.

Ludwig became a commercial fisherman, a crabber, and raised his family on Cedar Key, a small island in the Gulf of Mexico. When Jarret was seven his father was killed at sea. "He got in some bad weather and his boat sank," Jarret said. "They never found him."

Jarret's mother, Aida, a nurse, raised Jarret and his older sister, Mary Beth. She commuted from Cedar Key to jobs in Ocala, Gainesville, and Chiefland.

Cedar Key was a small school with no

football team. Jarret played baseball, but when it was time for high school he wanted to play football, too. And so he commuted the 35 miles to Chiefland each day. Jarret said, "I was always one of the bigger guys, but Cedar Key had a bunch of big boys. There were two bigger than me."

His sophomore year his family moved to Chiefland to be closer to his mother's job and for him to go to Chiefland High School. He was a high school star, earning prep All-America honors for Coach Sam Holland.

The 2000 season was an unpleasant surprise for Johnson. "I didn't necessarily think we were going to be competing for the national championship this year, but I thought we were going to have a good team," Jarret said. "I never would have thought it would have ended up like this."

He doesn't know how to explain it, either. "We had some injuries that hurt us, particularly Kindal and Kenny [defensive ends Kindal Moorehead, who was lost for the year with a pre-season achilles injury, and Kenny King, who was hampered most of the season with a shoulder problem]. But mostly it was not making plays."

Johnson noted that Alabama played "about the same" as in 1999, but in that season Alabama made the plays at the end to win close games. The result was a Southeastern Conference championship and a top ten national finish. He said, "Coach DuBose always told us that a game will come down to a few plays and the team that makes them will win. Last year we made them and this year we didn't, and I have no idea why we didn't. Last year we had so many strong leaders. This year it seemed like we were always waiting for someone else to do it."

Johnson thinks he played better as a sophomore. "As a freshman I tried to play hard, but I really didn't know what I was doing. This year I could see it a lot better, see what was happening."

But, he added, "I'm not playing for me. I'm not trying to win any personal awards. I just try to do my job and I hope the guys around me will do their jobs."

He said he had learned from the season. "I've learned that you can't just show up and beat people," he said. "You have to play hard every game, every down, as hard as you can. You have to step up and be a leader and motivate other people to do the same thing."

As a sophomore this season, Johnson was Alabama's top defensive lineman statistically in tackles, tackles for losses, and quarterback sacks. However, he will be remembered best for a play he made as a freshman in the SEC Championship Game, a hit on the Florida quarterback that knocked the ball loose and into the hands of teammate Reggie

Grimes, who ran it into the end zone, giving Bama a 28-7 fourth quarter lead in that eventual 34-7 victory.

The best thing a football coach can say about a football player is that "He is a football player." Mike DuBose says "Jarret Johnson is a football player. Whatever Jarret Johnson has inside of him, you're going to get on game day. As a coach, that's a comforting feeling."

All of Johnson's coaches recognize a particular quality in the sophomore. He has been willing to play any position asked of him. Johnson thinks he's a better defensive end than he is tackle, but said he doesn't have a preference for where he plays. "I just want to help the team," he said.

Johnson also said that Alabama's defensive linemen having the athletic ability to play either one of the inside tackle spots or one of the outside end spots "probably makes it a little confusing for the other side."

Each defensive line position is a little different, one of the tackles being a nose tackle (the position Johnson at 6-3, 275 is least suited for) and one of the ends (usually the right end) being more of a pass rush specialist. Johnson considers his best spot left end, which is primarily responsible for stopping the run to the strong side.

Johnson's position coach, Lance Thompson, said "Jarret has been invaluable because of his ability to play multiple positions. He's tough, he's strong, he's smart. And he plays hard."

Defensive Coordinator Ellis Johnson said, "He comes to work every day. And he's a natural leader. I think he's going to get better and better and that he'll have a great career at Alabama. He had to play three different positions in every game this year, which was a tremendous load on him."

Johnson said, "This year we had a problem with depth. Next year I think we'll be okay. We'll have Kindal and Kenny back and we'll have Anthony (Bryant, a freshman defensive tackle who was not eligible this year) and Albert (freshman defensive tackle Albert Means) is going to be awesome. This year we got worn down having to have a few players play so many snaps."

Jarret thinks the infusion of new talent on the defensive line might take him out of a starting job in his junior season. "I see myself as maybe being back in the role of backing up everyone because I can play every position," he said.

Johnson said, "This has been such an emotional year that I'm looking forward to being away from football for awhile." But, he said, "When it's time to go again (in the spring), I'll be ready to anxious. I'm looking forward to next season."

He Thinks Learning Year Will Help

by J. E. Lisby

Excellent all-around athlete should be leader at center when 2001 Tide begins work

From a distance on the Alabama football practice field, Alonzo Ephraim looks like most every other lineman out there. He's tall but not too tall (the program lists him at 6-3), big but not too big (officially he's 300 pounds, though the muscle is so evenly distributed that it's hard to tell). But despite physical similarities, Alonzo Ephraim is different. Alabama's starter-in-waiting at center is also one of its most versatile athletes.

"I actually did a lot of things growing up," Ephraim said. "Baseball, track, I like to go swimming, I was in a tennis tournament, martial arts—you name it; I did it. Growing up we used to play everything. My brother and my cousin and I would play basketball in the morning, then we'd play baseball in the front yard, then we'd run around the house rasslin', then we'd go outside and play football later at night."

There may be a stereotype of big offensive linemen being slow, but one of the distinguishing characteristics of Ephraim is that he has what the coaches call "good feet." He said, "In high school I had to play center in basketball," he said. "Back then I was only 270. So I guess I was a very physical guy on the court. Not many guys tried to drive the lane on me; that wasn't happening. I had fun, but now football is the sport. I would like to go out and play some recreational basketball, but I don't want to take the chance of getting hurt."

Although Ephraim was a *SuperPrep* All-America and all-state football player at Wenonah High School, where he was a four-year starter and played both offense and defense, he also set a school record in the discus and played baseball and basketball.

Though he enjoys most sports, football is his stock in trade now. "So far I've played center, left guard and right guard, and they've put me on special teams," he said. "The coaches told me that because of my athleticism and my being able to run as a big man, they wanted to get me on the



Alonzo Ephraim (58) has been used very little in his first two seasons at Alabama, but the big offensive lineman hopes to be a regular at center for the Crimson Tide in 2001. Barry Fikes Photo

field. But for me it's not just 'getting on the field,' it's helping the team. If I can help the team from the sidelines, then let me stay on the sidelines and help the team. But if I can contribute on the field like I feel I can, then let me get out there. Anything that helps the team to win will always benefit me."

Even before he arrived on campus, Tide

coaches were anxious to try him at center, reasoning that his combination of size, athleticism, and intelligence made him ideal for the position. And Neil Callaway, who has coached Ephraim on the offensive line the past two years, hasn't changed his mind since. "Alonzo's got good athletic ability," Callaway said. "He could play either guard or center long-term."

Game minutes for the man called "Zo" by his teammates turned out to be a rare commodity his first season. As a true freshman in '99, Ephraim was on the field for 25 plays in the Tide's easy victory over Houston early in the season. During what turned out to be a championship year, Alabama rarely found itself comfortably ahead, and despite frequent promises from Head Coach Mike DuBose to play more backups, it never happened. So Ephraim watched from the sidelines for the rest of the year until the SEC Championship Game in Atlanta when he got in for four essentially meaningless plays at the end of that blowout victory. The paucity of snaps for Ephraim led many to suggest that his first year on campus would have been better served as a redshirt.

Thankfully, his second season was better. After sitting out during the Tide's season-opening loss to UCLA, Ephraim has played in every game since, though more sparingly than he would have liked. "When you see that you're not going to play, then it can affect you," Ephraim said. "It really does. Day-in and day-out, week-after-week, you're practicing hard; you're doing your best; you're getting your assignments down. You know your plays. You know their defense. You're ready to play. During games you're on the sideline cheering them on, but yet you still don't see any of the field. You want to get out there on the field, because you feel like you can help. You think, 'Why am I out here practicing so hard when I'm not going to play?' It gets discouraging."

DuBose expressed disappointment that the backup offensive linemen didn't push harder for playing time this season. And, perhaps surprisingly, Ephraim agrees. "Some guys get up here with all the talent and they don't rise to the occasion and compete," he said. "They think because they were so good in high school that they can just come and play here, but you have to raise your standards and play better. You probably were the best in high school, but that's not your best. The coaches want you to play to the best of your potential. Then some guys get up here and see the athletes out there and think, 'They're so big. This guy is playing my position and he's so good. He's better than me. So I guess I'm going to be playing behind him all the time I'm here.' When instead they should think that he may be a

good athlete, but I'm good too, and I want to beat him out."

The transition from high school star to just another college player is difficult for most athletes, but perhaps especially so for linemen accustomed to dominating based on size and strength. "Some guys are so big in high school that they intimidate the other guys," Ephraim said. "They can just take over the whole game. Then they get up here and see guys bigger than them, and they think, 'I'm not the big dog now.' It's about the effort and how big your heart is. There are a lot of guys that can bench press more and run faster than guys ahead of them, but they just don't have the heart."

Growing up in Birmingham, he developed an early devotion to the Crimson Tide. "I've always, always been an Alabama fan," Ephraim said. "When I was young, we'd come home from my metro-league games and sit around watching Alabama on TV. I'd tell my Dad, 'One day, you'll see. I'm going to play for Alabama.' I was just dreaming then, but God made my dream come true."

"That first time to run out on the field was awesome. It was so electrifying and exciting. And every time you come out of the tunnel—over and over and over again—you get that same feeling. When you get on that field, you marvel at the atmosphere. The air, the grass—you can smell it. You get a whiff of it and think, 'This is where I want to be. There's no other place in the world.' Just to come out of that tunnel and know you're representing that Crimson jersey is awesome."

It's that devotion to Alabama that made the 2000 season so difficult for Ephraim. "This year has been tough," he said. "But it also has been a learning year. A lot of guys are growing up and maturing, getting older and wiser. I look back and can't believe we lost all those games, but it's hard to beat a team when you're beating yourself. That will be one thing that we learn from this season. Next year you're going to see a whole different team."

"No matter who we have as coaches, if as players we stay together, then we're going to win. We need guys to step up and be strong leaders, and I'm praying that God instills that in me. It's a matter of the players coming together and saying we're not going to let this happen again. We had more talent at Alabama this year than we've had in many years. We've just got to put the pieces of the puzzle together."



Call Today!
1-800-713-2261

- **Subscribe**
- **Re-New**
- **Gift**

Subscriptions

A subscription to 'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE, is the best way for Alabama fans to keep up with their favorite team.

'BAMA includes 10 magazines and 14 newsletters.

While the emphasis is on football and football recruiting, ALL Alabama men's and women's sports are covered.

And no one covers recruiting, before and after the signing dates, like 'BAMA.

Use our convenient toll free telephone number to subscribe, re-new your subscription, or to give a gift to a Crimson Tide fan. Gift subscriptions include a card announcing your generosity.

(Telephone orders VISA and MasterCard only.)

Or you may FAX your credit card order to 1-205-345-1260 or mail your check for \$35 per subscription (Alabama residents must include an additional \$2 for sales tax) to

'BAMA
P.O. Box 86 6104
Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0054

Gymnastics Outlook:

As Usual, It Looks Very Good

by Andrew Varble II

Pattersons expect another
championship contender

At the halftime of this year's Alabama-South Carolina football game, 14 women stood at the 50-yard line and one-by-one received Southeastern Conference Championship rings. The rings were in recognition for the Crimson Tide gymnastics program's fourth conference title since 1988. The very next day 12 of those women went back to the gym, preparing for January and the defense of the title.

With such a large returning contingent from a championship season, the Tide's future looks bright. But a large group of experienced veterans isn't always the key to success. Having the right chemistry has as much to do with winning as talent and training. Luckily for the 2001 gymnasts, that commodity seems to be even stronger this year than last.

"Every year the atmosphere around the team changes," senior Robin Hawkins said. "This year it just seemed to get more comfortable. It doesn't even seem like practice; it's like going to hang out with my friends. Sure it's still hard and sure it's practice, but it's really fun this year."

Losing just two athletes off last year's squad and enjoying a strong camaraderie aren't the only pluses for the 2001 Tide. There are at least six more. Sarah and David Patterson, in their 23rd season leading the Crimson Tide, added a half dozen freshmen to its roster, giving the coaching staff many options in making up the Tide lineup. It is the largest team in Crimson Tide history.

This Tide team isn't just blessed with numbers. Talent abounds, including six returning first-team All-America performers.

Alabama has a number of top performers returning this gymnastics season. Bama stars include (left to right): Front-Lissy Smith and Katie Hornecker. Back-Dara Stewart, Kristin Sterner, Natalie Barrington, and Andree Pickens.

Barry Fikes Photo







The Crimson Tide gymnastics team has been a national power for many years and will continue for years to come, in part because of recruiting that has added the likes of freshmen (left to right) Lauren Holdefer, Stephanie Kite and Jeana Rice to the Bama roster.
Barry Fikes Photo

André Pickens returns for her junior year sporting nine All-America honors over the past two seasons. The 1999 NCAA balance beam champion spent the off season adding skills and honing her already formidable ability.

"When your top athlete is putting in the kind of effort that André did during the off season, it can't help but be an inspiration to her teammates," Sarah Patterson said. "She worked extremely hard over the summer to add skills on all four events."

Pickens nursed a stress fracture in her foot between her freshman and sophomore year, giving up a trip to the World University Games to do so. The time off led to the coaching staff easing her back into the lineup last season. Once back though, she hit with full force, leading the nation in the all-around for five weeks during the regular season. She was also the nation's top ranked floor exercise worker for three weeks.

In the SEC Championships, Pickens won three individual titles, including all-around. She was named the SEC Gymnast of the Year and was later named the NCAA Region 4 Gymnast of the Year. In addition to four All-

America honors, she finished second on the vault and was the Tide's MVP.

With her quiet nature, sophomore Kristin Sterner could easily fade into the background if it weren't for skills that make her hard to miss during a meet. A three-time All-America as a rookie, Sterner also earned All-SEC honors. She will again compete in the all-around, though, the Pattersons hope they don't have to use any of their all-arounders every event every meet.

Alabama's senior class returns three All-Americans. Robin Hawkins started off last season as the Tide's top all-arounder, winning the inaugural SEC Gymnast of the Week honor after the Super Six Challenge that started off the year. A torn anterior cruciate ligament cut her season short, but hard work in the training room and the gym has put her in a position to close out her career with a flourish.

After serving as a role player through her first two seasons, Katie Hornecker hit stride as a junior, stepping into the all-around and earning All-America honors in the vault (as well as earning Scholastic All-America as a

mechanical engineering major). Hornecker's renaissance should carry over to her final season. She can go all-around and will be looked to as a mainstay of the Tide's vault and uneven bars' lineup.

The rock upon which Alabama's balance beam lineup is built, Lissy Smith, the Tide's in-season captain last year, is slated for beam and floor duty again this year. Sarah Patterson calls the two-time All-America the most consistent beam worker she has ever coached.

When Dara Stewart first came to the Crimson Tide as a freshman, there were some who doubted she would ever compete for Alabama. The Hoover native knew she could, but even she couldn't foresee the kind of success she's earned. Stewart is a three-year uneven bars All-America and a three-event regular (all but floor exercise) in the Tide's lineup.

Alabama's six-woman junior class is, along with this year's freshman group, the second largest class in Tide history. Only the freshman class of 1980, seven strong, was larger. Juniors Alexa

Martinez and Krista Gole are both poised to return to the lineup after injuries forced them out last year. Raegan Tomasek is another all-around candidate, having performed in that capacity at least once during each of her first two seasons. By the end of last season, Tomasek was a regular in the vault, balance beam and floor exercise lineup. A vault specialist last season, Whitney Morgan is poised to have a much bigger impact in 2001. She could show up anywhere in the lineup based on fall practices.

Sarah Scarborough worked hard to make an impact on the Tide's vaulting lineup last season during her rookie season. Her effort paid off when she vaulted the very first meet and helped the Tide to the first Super Six Challenge title. The Birmingham native is looking to make an even bigger impact this year.

Alabama's current crop of rookies, six strong, is chomping at the bit to do their part for the Tide's fortunes. Lauren and Erin Holdefer are not only the first sisters to compete for the Crimson Tide; they are the first twins as well. The duo came out of Alabama's back yard, graduating from Tuscaloosa County High School and competing for the Bama Bounders. Helen Burgin is another Alabama-based gymnast to join the Tide. Burgin hails from Mountain Brook.

Stephanie Kite is the latest in a long line of Texas-based gymnasts to join the Crimson Tide. The daughter of PGA golfer Tom Kite hails from Capital Gymnastics, the same gym that produced current junior Alexa Martinez and former Alabama All-Americans Merritt Booth, Sheryl Dundas, Kara Stilp and Stephanie Woods.

Both Tiffany Byrd and Jeana Rice come from the Sunshine State of Florida. Byrd hails from Orlando while Rice comes to the Tide from Longwood. Rice is the daughter of Joan Moore Gnat, a member of the 1972 United States Olympic gymnastics team and an 11-time national champion.

Lauren Holdefer, Kite and Rice have all gotten off to a fast start this fall and are expected to be in the lineup when Alabama gets things started by hosting the second Super Six Challenge on January 6 in Coleman Coliseum. All of the Tide's freshmen have the potential to crack the lineup at some point in the season.

Starting the season off with the Super Six Challenge means that right off the bat, the Tide will have seen five of the nation's best. Florida, Georgia, Penn State, Michigan and Stanford will all begin their seasons with the Tide in Tuscaloosa. After that Alabama doesn't look back, taking on Auburn, UCLA and LSU in addition to re-

matches with Florida, Georgia and Penn State during the year.

Actually, Alabama takes on Auburn twice, once the second week of the season in Coleman and then, on February 9 in Birmingham. The meet will take place in the Birmingham Civic Center with the Tigers serving as the host. The meet marks the first time either team has competed in Birmingham. It won't be the last time though. In addition to another Magic City clash between the Tide and Tigers in 2002, the entire conference is gathering in Birmingham on March 23 for the 2001 SEC Championships. It marks the first time the league has hosted its championships off campus.

The most important meet of the season, though, is again in Tuscaloosa. Not the Tide's annual Tuscaloosa clash with Georgia, which will be big on February 16. No, the most important meet of the season will be the NCAA Central Region Championships, hosted by Alabama on April 7. To move on to its 19th consecutive NCAA Championship meet, the Tide must finish first or second at the regional.

And if they should, as expected, advance to the NCAA Championships, the trip will be short, a mere 250-plus miles to Athens, Georgia. The last time Georgia hosted the NCAA Championships, Alabama finished second by less than a quarter of a point.



True Crimson

This all-silk Robert Talbott tie is made exclusively for The Locker Room and is offered in True Crimson color...\$55

Call toll free

The Locker Room

1-800-749-0992

1218 University Boulevard
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

It's back.

Our popular "Elephant Shirt" is now available.

100% Cotton
Short-Sleeve Knit

Red, White, Heather
M-XXL

\$37⁵⁰
plus tax, shipping

Call toll free



The Locker Room

1-800-749-0992

1218 University Boulevard
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

Progress Expected To Continue

by Andrew Varble II

Alabama men's and women's track and field has been rebuilt to national prominence

Alabama's track and field program, both the men and the women, have been racing to return to top of the pack nationally. In the fall of 1997, Harvey Glance and Sandy Fowler were brought to campus to rebuild the Tide's men's and women's teams respectively back into solid powers. Going into year four, the renovation process is right on, well, track, with both programs making large strides at the conference and national levels.

Last season, at the SEC Indoor Championships, Alabama's men finished fourth, one up from their placing the year before, which in turn was a place up from the 1998 finish. A similar upswing has taken place in

outdoor competition. During Glance's first season, 1998, Alabama finished eighth, followed by a seventh place tally in 1999 and a sixth place total in 2000. From 1998 to 2000, at the outdoor championship, the Crimson Tide's point total has doubled. That movement is even more impressive when you consider that the Southeastern Conference is one of the best track and field conferences in the nation.

Proof of SEC's dominance can be found in the Tide. Glance and company finished fourth at last year's SEC indoor championships and tied for fifth at the NCAA Championships several weeks later. The outdoor championships tell a similar tale,

with Alabama's men taking sixth in the conference and tied for seventh at the NCAA Championships last season.

The resurgence being pulled off by the Tide women has been dramatic. In 1997, Alabama's women finished dead last at the SEC Indoor Championships. The last two seasons, Alabama was seventh. In 1997, the Tide scored one point at the conference indoor championship, while last season they scored 43 points, an impressive leap.

In 1997, the year before Fowler and her crew came to campus, Alabama finished 12th at the SEC outdoor championship. A year later they moved up to 10th. In 1999, they jumped to seventh, 11 points out of



Alabama's track and field teams are expected to be among the nation's best indoors and outdoors. Starring for the Crimson Tide in 2001 will be (left to right) Ron Bramlett, Ashley LaBudde, Miguel Pate, Aly Mills, David Kimani, and Petagay Gayle. Barry Fikes Photo

sixth place. Last season, the Tide scored 71.25 points, again finishing in seventh place, a mere .25 out of sixth this time.

On the national scene, Alabama's women were a top-15 staple at the NCAA outdoor championships through the early '90s. Hard times came swiftly. From 1995 to 1999, Alabama scored at the meet only once, taking 33rd place in 1996. Last season Fowler and company returned to the top 15, tying for 13th place.

In looking at graduation, Alabama's men will miss Tim Broe the most. Broe won the 2000 NCAA 3000-meter steeplechase. He also won the Commissioner's Trophy at the SEC Indoor Championship, given annually to the top individual point getter.

"I feel real good," Glance said of his latest squad. "We did lose some people, but I think we have possibly a better team than we did a year ago, and that's a little scary. One of the reasons that we have been able to turn the program around is that we have

been able to attract the top kids to this program. We're still, to this day, recruiting top talent. They're interested in the SEC, as well as this program. That was my goal when I came to Alabama: to get back to the level of attraction that it was in the '70s and early '80s."

Two things have transpired to take some of the sting out of that loss. The first is sophomore David Kimani joining the Crimson Tide after spending his rookie season at South Alabama. Kimani won the NCAA Cross Country championship as a freshman. He also won the 3,000-meter and 5,000-meter NCAA Indoor titles. Released by South Alabama, the distance ace from Nairobi has made an immediate impact for the Crimson Tide, winning the SEC Cross Country Championship going away. Kimani is a threat to win any race he lines up for, including his events at the indoor and outdoor NCAA Championships.

The second thing that has helped the Tide's fortunes on both the SEC and national level is the emergence of Chris Mutai.

Kimani was rehabbing an injury through most of the cross country season and it was Mutai, a senior, who ran to the front for the Tide. Always a steady performer, if he can carry that senior surge into the track and field season, he can score some big points for the Tide at the championship level.

On a conference level, junior Japeth Koech should be able to help out in the distance events after earning All-SEC honors in cross country this fall.

Hurdler Ron Bramlett is poised to make some big noise in his senior season. The All-America finished fourth in the 110-meter hurdles at last season's NCAA outdoor championships and third in the 60-meter hurdles at the NCAA indoor meet. This season he will be in a position to win both events.

Senior All-America Miguel Pate will also be looking for gold this year. Pate finished fifth at the NCAA outdoor meet and eighth at the NCAA indoor meet in the long jump.

Sprint freshmen Calvin Redden and Matt Lyn will both look to score at the confer-

"Reflections of a Champion"



2514 University Blvd.
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
(205) 752-6222
(800) 579-TIDE

e-mail:
dtgallery@mindspring.com
www.thedowntowngallery.com



Image shown is work in progress.

LIMITED EDITION PRINTS

Regular Edition: Retail \$195
Signed and numbered by the artist. Strictly limited to 750 prints.
Signature Edition: Retail \$295
Signed and numbered by the artist. Strictly limited to 450 prints.
Artist's Proofs: Retail \$495
Signed and numbered by the artist. Strictly limited to 120 proofs.

ORIGINAL CANVAS REPLICAS

Regular Edition: Retail \$1,500
Signed and numbered by the artist. Strictly limited to 200 units.
Artist's Proofs: Retail \$2,000
Signed and numbered by the artist. Strictly limited to 20 units.
Add \$200 for lithograph framing
and \$550 for canvas framing.
Alabama residents must add 8% sales tax.

*The Downtown Gallery is now taking orders for Daniel A. Moore's upcoming release
"Reflections of a Champion" featuring Payne Stewart in the 1999 U.S. Open.
Call today to place your order. This limited edition is expected to sell-out quickly!*

ence level. Redden was one of the nation's best high schoolers in the 200-meter dash, figuring in the national top-10. Sophomore O'neil Wright continues to improve and should help out in the sprint events. Newcomer B.J. Williams could also make an impact in the sprint events as a sophomore after transferring from NCAA Division II North Carolina Central.

Alabama's women graduated All-America thrower Safiya Ingram and All-America hurdler Brandit Copper, two mainstays of the Tide's 13th place NCAA outdoors finish a year ago. Fowler and company will have to find athletes to step up to replace those points.

"I don't think there's any doubt that we can continue to move up in the conference and national standings," Fowler said. "Our relays are going to be better this year and we have done a good job of filling our graduation losses through recruiting. I think we have the chance to be much improved this year."

Leading the Crimson Tide into the 2001

season will be All-America Petagay Gayle who finished third in the 400-meter hurdles last season at the NCAA Outdoor Championships. She is also the defending SEC 400-meter hurdles champion.

The distance events will be covered by the All-SEC duo of Aly Mills and Ashley LaBudde. Both women are coming off outstanding cross country seasons and should be able to carry that over onto the track.

Senior Bobbette Stewart will have a chance to finish off her Crimson Tide career with a flash. Stewart is a contender in the 800-meter race at the SEC level after finishing third in that event outdoors last season.

Senior Ne-Juan Bakewell will also be counted on to score in the hurdles, after an All-America season in 1999. Seniors Petagay Barrett (Gayle and Barrett are both natives of Jamaica, where Petagay is a common name) and Delilah Dillard will both be key contributors in the 100- and 200-meter races in addition to being relay standouts.

Alabama has a trio of freshmen in the sprint events looking to make an immediate impact on the Tide's fortunes. Nicole

Ireland is a versatile sprinter whose biggest problem may be in deciding on what event to enter. She can run the 100- and 400-meter hurdles as well as the 100- and 200-meter dashes. Teyarnte Carter will also be called upon in the 100- and 200-meter dashes as well as relay duty. Marie Giles gives the Tide a solid 400-meter threat.

The Tide will be led in the throwing events by newcomer Eva Danielsen, who will join Alabama for the spring semester. Fowler, the 2000 U.S. Olympic Coach in the throwing events, has high hopes for Danielsen. The Norway native finaled at the World Junior Championships this fall held in Santiago, Chile in the hammer throw, setting the Norwegian national junior record in the process. Sophomore Natalie Kinion finished fourth in the shot put at last season's SEC Championships and looks to improve on that performance in 2001.

Two-sport standout Shun Hunter will look to improve in the jumps. Hunter, a forward on the Tide women's basketball team, finished fifth in the triple jump at last year's SEC outdoor championships.

'Bama Watches



Quality components include Citizen® quartz movements. Water resistant with two year warranty.
Elite watches packaged in tin gift box. Team watch packaged in tuck box.

'Bama' and 'Elephant' design are available with leather strap or bracelet. Please specify which design when ordering.



Men's

Elite Model - w/oiled leather strap - \$75.95



Women's



Men's

Elite Model - w/stainless steel bracelet - \$79.95



Women's



Team model - w/velcro sport strap - \$39.95



To order by credit card, call:
800-713-2261

To order by mail, send check or money order to:
Bama Watch, PO Box 866104, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486
Add \$6.95 for ground S&H and 6% sales tax for AL residents.
Allow 2-4 weeks for delivery. Rush delivery normally available.

HANA
TIME

Skill Players In Southeast In Picture

by James Edwards

Although Bama will select in-state stars, Tide also looking around region

Despite the team's dismal won-loss record this season, one aspect of Mike DuBose's tenure as head coach was consistently good recruiting. Every year in February he and his staff signed a talented group of athletes to play for the Tide. But the 85/25 NCAA rule on scholarship limitations means that Alabama can't afford to take a year off—even to change head coaches.

With five seniors including four sometime starters on its two-deep roster in the secondary (Milo Lewis, Tony Dixon, Marcus Spencer, Kecal Bailey and Jason Jones), it's critical that Alabama sign its share of quality defensive backs. Plus, Tyler Watts' torn ACL left the Tide with only one healthy, scholarshiped quarterback in Andrew Zow. And of course Dustin McClintock's departure leaves the offense without a proven fullback. So once again, expect Alabama to sign its share of quality skill players this season.

Led by quarterback Brodie Croyle and tailback Carnell Williams, Alabama's in-state crop of talent at the skill positions is both gifted and deep this year, meaning the Tide will likely concentrate within its own borders. But Alabama has always made a point of signing some of the top talent from surrounding states, and this year should be no different.

A look at some of the recruiting publications will reveal a long list of athletes listing Alabama among their favorites. Certainly, the Tide coaches aren't aggressively pursuing them all, and past history shows that as events play out, Alabama will become involved with names not currently mentioning the Tide.

Bearing that in mind, we take a look at some of the skill players—tailbacks, fullbacks, quarterbacks, wide receivers and defensive backs—in neighboring states who have been linked to Alabama. Prospects are listed alphabetically by state.



Charles Frederick

FLORIDA

Leroy Aiken, wide receiver, 6-1, 195, 4.5 (40-yard dash time) from Dillard in Fort Lauderdale will also get looks at cornerback. He has terrific hands and had 30 receptions for 400 yards and two touchdowns as a junior. Aiken has registered a 36-inch vertical jump. He bench presses 235 pounds and has a 2.7 grade point average (GPA), but must raise his score on one of the standardized tests (SAT or ACT). Aiken says Alabama is his leader followed by West Virginia, Central Florida, Western Michigan, and South Florida.

Shannon Benton, cornerback, 5-11, 187, 4.5, from Frostproof is a solid cornerback who plays in a lot of different schemes for a state champion football team. He played in all 15 games as a junior and posted 70 tackles (35 solo) and three interceptions. Benton has a 32-inch vertical jump and he made all-county. His cousin, Travis Henry, plays at Tennessee. He bench presses 310 pounds, squats 405 and power cleans 285. Benton has a 2.9 GPA and should qualify. He is evaluating Miami, Florida, East Carolina, Georgia, FSU and Alabama.

Willie Brown, fullback, 6-0, 235, 4.6, out of Hernando in Brooksville is a bona fide fullback/linebacker. As a junior he rushed for

643 yards on 87 carries (7.4 yards per carry) with 10 touchdowns. He also caught four passes for 43 yards and one touchdown. Defensively Brown had 66 tackles, caused two fumbles and had one fumble recovery (returned for touchdown). He was selected all-area, all-county, all-district and all-conference. He bench presses 340 pounds, has a 3.1 GPA, and made 18 on the ACT. He lists his favorite schools as FSU, Miami, Alabama, Georgia Tech and South Florida.

Jerome Carter, strong safety, 6-1, 210, 4.48 from Columbia in Lake City is one of the elite strong safety prospects in the South. He finished his junior year with 119 tackles and two interceptions. Carter is also a terrific running back with 85 carries for 878 yards and 12 touchdowns while averaging 10.3 yards per carry. He was an honorable mention all-state member as a sophomore, and improved to first team all-state as a junior. He attended the Nike Camp in Athens, Georgia. Carter bench presses 315 pounds and power cleans 225. He has a 2.8 GPA, but must raise his ACT score. He is being pursued by the nation, but the final contenders are Tennessee, Florida, Miami, FSU, Georgia, Alabama and Auburn.

Jason Darby, cornerback, 6-0, 165, 4.4, from Northwestern in Miami is a sticky cornerback who loves to play man-to-man. He allowed just eight passes to be caught against him as a junior with none going for touchdowns. He had 30 tackles and five interceptions his junior year. Bench pressing just 185 pounds, Darby must get stronger in order to compete at the collegiate level. He squats 250 and has a 2.3 GPA. He says he is hearing from North Carolina, Alabama, Miami, UCF and Syracuse.

Tenard Davis, cornerback, 5-10, 175, 4.3, out of Southridge in Miami is a star on the rise in South Florida. He was a state finalist in the 100 meters, leading before pulling up with a hamstring pull only 10 yards from the tape. His coach says Davis is the fastest player in Florida and that he has moved him to wideout in order to get a deep threat. He bench presses 300 pounds and his coach reports he is pound-for-pound the strongest player on the team. Davis has a 2.36 GPA and scored 920 on the SAT. He has interest in Auburn, Florida, Miami, Alabama, and Nebraska.

Charles Frederick, wide receiver, 5-11,

Keep Up With Crimson Tide Recruiting!

Indeed, you can keep up with all facets of all Alabama sports, including Crimson Tide recruiting year-round, on our internet site, <http://BamaMag.com>

There's no charge and you get daily reports from 'BAMA Editor Kirk McNair (who answers questions and also hosts regular chats) and information from regional and national experts.

170, 4.4, from Pope John Paul II in Boca Raton is the number one player in the Sunshine State and the top receiver in the South. He lacks the height that many colleges are seeking, but he has excellent moves, terrific hands and is an incredible leaper. He has been measured at over 40 inches on his vertical jump. Frederick caught 18 passes for 400 yards and nine touchdowns as a junior, plus he ran 34 times for 400 yards and 12 touchdowns. Frederick is also a stellar basketball guard who averages 30-plus points a game, reaching the 40-point plateau more than once. Due to a shoulder injury, Frederick only bench presses 195 pounds and squats 315. He has a 2.7 overall GPA; a 2.19 core GPA and should pass the test. The lucky schools in the running include FSU, Washington, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Auburn, Clemson, and Indiana.

Lionel Gates, fullback, 6-1, 210, 4.4, from Terry Parker in Jacksonville says, "I'll make you miss, but if you are between me and the goal line, I'll run you over." He rushed for 1400 yards and 17 touchdowns in six games, plus he had two receiving touchdowns. He was a first team all-state selection as a junior, and he made the Pre-Season *Florida Times Union* Super 11. He bench presses 375 pounds, squats 650 and power cleans 275. He has a 2.8 GPA and should qualify. He favors Alabama over Florida, Miami, Georgia Tech, Clemson, Tennessee and FSU.

Frank Gore, running back, 5-11, 195, 4.45, from Coral Gables was the leading rusher in Dade County, the strongest region in the Sunshine State. He is a powerfully built runner with breakaway speed. Gore rushed for 1669 yards as a junior, while also catching 15 passes out of the backfield for 289 yards and four touchdowns. Gore bench presses 305 pounds and squats 405. He has a 2.3 GPA and should be able to qualify. He is considering Auburn, Alabama, Ohio State, Wisconsin, Pittsburgh, Michigan and several more.

Andrew Harris, quarterback, 6-3, 200, 4.6, from Northeast in St. Petersburg is a four-year starter who has all the tools to play quarterback at the next level. He made second team all-state at quarterback after a junior year in which he had 2786 yards passing and 20 touchdowns. He started as a freshman at safety, and last year as a junior he posted 10 interceptions, which shows potential in the secondary. He also is a two time all-conference selection. Harris bench presses 285 pounds and has a 2.6 core GPA, but he must raise a 700 SAT. Harris has his eyes on FSU, Florida, Miami, Oklahoma State, Texas A&M, Alabama, Iowa, South Carolina, Tennessee, Michigan and Ohio State.

Adrian McPherson, quarterback, 6-4, 185, 4.6, from Southeast in Bradenton is the number one quarterback in Florida. He completed 145 of 243 passes for 2497 yards, 33 touchdowns and eight interceptions. He

was selected all-state. McPherson is also a superstar basketball player who ranks among the Top 100 players in the Southeast. He averaged 35 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists per game. McPherson wants to play both sports and there is a chance that he will play hoops only. He bench presses just 200 pounds, has a 2.5 core GPA and scored 19 on the ACT. He claims a 9-foot, 8-inch standing long jump and a 35-inch vertical jump. McPherson is narrowing a very long list that includes Alabama.

Tavaghn Monts, free safety, 6-3, 190, 4.4, out of Ribault in Jacksonville is a skilled athlete who plays both wide receiver and free safety. He posted 68 solo tackles and two interceptions during his junior campaign. Monts is the number 14 player on the *Times Union* pre-season list. He has camped at Florida and South Florida. He bench presses 220 pounds, squats 345 and power cleans 225. He has a 3.0 GPA and scored 17 on the ACT. Monts has his sights on Florida, Purdue, Tulane, Arkansas and Alabama.

George Murray, athlete, 6-2, 190, 4.4, from Richards in Tallahassee is a very athletic quarterback who passed for 835 yards and seven touchdowns, while rushing for four touchdowns. As his team's best athlete, he plays quarterback in high school, but he will likely be a wide receiver or free safety in college. He is an all-county honorable mention who has a 36-inch vertical jump. Murray has camped at Alabama, FSU, and Bethune Cookman. He bench presses 225 pounds and squats 300. He has a 3.21 GPA and made 18 on the ACT. He likes Alabama, UCF, South Carolina, Louisville and FAMU.

Antrel Rolle, cornerback, 6-1, 195, 4.4 from South Dade in Homestead is one of the best cornerback/free safety prospects in the South. He was an all-district and honorable mention All-Dade County selection after a junior year in which he had 53 solo tackles, 29 assists and three interceptions. Rolle bench presses 315 pounds and squats 420. He has a 2.79 GPA and has scored 18 on the ACT. He is interested in Notre Dame, Nebraska, Miami, FSU, Florida, Alabama and Tennessee.

Bruce Youmans, running back, 5-10, 175, 4.4, from East Bay in Gibsonton was the state champion in the 200 meters (21.26) and the runner-up in the 100 meters (10.5). He can play numerous positions but is likely destined for either cover cornerback or wide receiver. Youmans rushed 90 times for 796 yards and 10 touchdowns. He is an all-conference selection with a 29-inch vertical jump. He bench presses 235 pounds, squats 305 and power cleans 225. He has a 2.8 GPA with an 810 SAT. Bruce has indicated an interest in FSU, Florida, UCF, Alabama, Nebraska, Georgia, Georgia Tech, Wisconsin and Tulane.

GEORGIA

Muhammad Abdullah, free safety, 6-0,

185, 4.5, out of Charlton County in Folkston is a true free safety but could see time at cornerback in college. He had 50 tackles and five interceptions as a junior at free safety, and so far during his senior year he has picked off five passes. He has a 35-inch vertical jump, which allows him to go up high for the ball and intercept it or knock it away. Abdullah is sometimes playing wideout as a senior and has two touchdowns on just 10 receptions. He made all-region as a junior. He bench presses 250 pounds, has a 2.5 GPA and scored 760 on the SAT. He is leaning to Arkansas, South Carolina and Alabama over Georgia Tech and Florida.

LaRue Beck, free safety, 6-3, 200, 4.4, from Marietta is one of the most athletic free safety prospects in the South. With enough athleticism to possibly play both ways in college, he had 112 tackles as a junior, including three interceptions and two blocked kicks. He has a 38-inch vertical jump, and he bench presses 230 pounds. Beck should qualify. He is looking at Clemson, South Carolina, Georgia Tech, Tennessee, Florida, Michigan, Alabama, Auburn, North Carolina State and Michigan State.

Dominique Brown, free safety/cornerback, 6-2, 180, 4.48, from Burke County in Waynesboro is an all-region player who plays quarterback on offense due to his athleticism. He rushed for 492 yards and seven touchdowns, while passing for 328 yards and two touchdowns with only one interception. He also contributed nine punt returns for 129 yards, plus he had a 97-yard kickoff return for touchdown. Defensively, Brown had 47 tackles and two interceptions while rotating between free safety and cornerback. As a senior he has 42 tackles and three pass breakups. He bench presses 285 pounds, squats 415 and power cleans 245. He has a 2.58 core GPA and made 730 on the SAT. He is leaning to Georgia and Alabama over Florida, Tennessee, Clemson, Georgia Tech, Auburn and South Carolina.

Quentin Burrell, free safety, 6-0, 170, 4.5, from Southwest DeKalb in Decatur is a natural free safety, registering 59 tackles and nine interceptions as a junior. He made all-county and all-state after his junior year. Burrell measured a 36-inch vertical jump at summer camps. He bench presses 240 pounds and squats 385. He has a 3.5 GPA and scored 19 on the ACT. His great-grandfather is legendary ex-Grambling coach Eddie Robinson. He has expressed interest in LSU, Mississippi State, Georgia, Georgia Tech, Auburn, Miami, Alabama and Tulane.

Miles Carpenter, free safety, 6-4, 205, 4.6, out of Pickens County in Jasper plays quarterback on offense and free safety on defense. He was credited with 56 solo tackles, 31 assists, eight tackles for loss and five interceptions. He also had a productive junior year at quarterback, passing for 482 yards

and rushing for 1,206 yards. He bench presses 285 pounds, squats 385 and power cleans 250. He has a 3.25 GPA and should qualify easily. He is looking at Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Clemson, Auburn, Louisville, East Carolina and UConn.

Jabari Davis, running back, 6-0, 230, 4.5, from Tucker possesses huge thighs and legs, which makes it nearly impossible for potential tacklers to wrap him up effectively. One of the top-rated runners in the South, Davis is a bruiser with breakaway ability. He rushed for 1,028 yards and 12 touchdowns as a junior on his way to being named all-county and all-area. Davis runs a 10.88 hundred meters and has a 34-inch vertical jump. He has a 51-foot shot put mark. He bench presses 335 pounds, squats 575 and power cleans 285. He has a 2.45 GPA and scored 810 on the SAT. His school preferences are Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Texas and Florida.

Thomas Davis, strong safety, 6-3, 215, 4.43, out of Randolph-Clay in Cuthbert plays running back, receiver, kicker, punter, kickoff returner, punt returner, defensive end, linebacker, strong safety and free safety. As a junior he averaged 30 yards per reception, 10 yards per carry, 30 yards per kickoff return and double digit tackles each game. Davis has camped at Georgia, Alabama, and the Bigger, Faster, Stronger Camp in Cordele. He bench presses 315 pounds but has some work to do in order to qualify. He needs five core classes as a senior and he is enrolled in three at present, planning to take the final two in summer school. He is getting looks from Alabama and Georgia (his top two), plus Clemson, Auburn, South Carolina and Mississippi State.

Keith Glover, fullback, 6-2, 238, 4.65 from South Effingham in Glover is one of the most complete fullbacks in the South. He is

a bruising runner and a back-breaking blocker. Glover rushed for 930 yards and 10 touchdowns as a junior. In a part-time role on defense, he had four sacks and caused two fumbles. Glover bench presses 315 pounds, squats 605 and power cleans 290. He has a "B" average in school and should pass the test. He is listing Georgia, Alabama, MTSU, Arkansas, Clemson and Marshall.

Pedro Holiday, wide receiver, 6-2, 175, 4.37, from Pepperell in Lindale has great speed and elusiveness. Holiday had 38 receptions for 800 yards and 10 touchdowns, averaging 21 yards per catch as a junior en route to making second team all-state. He runs a 10.56 100 meters, 21.4 200 meters, and long jumps 21-9. Holiday bench presses 265 pounds, squats 400 and power cleans 275. He has a 2.4 GPA and should qualify. He says he favors Georgia, Tennessee, FSU, Alabama, South Carolina, Auburn and Georgia Tech.

Shannon Lavette, running back, 6-0, 215, 4.6, from McEachern in Powder Springs is a big back with terrific vision. He rushed for close to 800 yards with 11 touchdowns as a junior while sharing the load with other backs. As a senior, he is the top back, averaging about 30 carries per game and six yards per carry. He also has shown sure hands out of the backfield and he is a good blocker. Lavette is a three-year starter who made all-county and all-region as a junior. He has a 34-inch vertical jump, a 2.4 GPA and scored 820 on the SAT. He bench presses 335 pounds, squats 555 and power cleans 310. He lists his top two as LSU and Alabama followed by Auburn, Georgia Tech, South Carolina, Clemson, Mississippi State and Arkansas.

J.R. Lemon, running back, 6-2, 215, 4.43, from Sandy Creek in Tyrone is one of the elite running backs in the South. He is an

all-purpose back who has great hands out of the backfield and has lined up at receiver on third down situations. Lemon rushed for 1,150 yards and 12 touchdowns, while gaining over 1,500 all-purpose yards. He was his county's Offensive Player of the Year, plus made all-area and honorable mention all-state. At summer camps he registered a 32-inch vertical jump. He bench presses 300 pounds, squats 485 and power cleans 280. Lemon has a 3.8 GPA and scored 1170 on the SAT. He is one of the top three backs in Georgia and will rank top five in the South. He is interested in Georgia, Georgia Tech, Ohio State, Michigan, Texas, Alabama, Stanford, Notre Dame, Florida State, and Miami.

David Pollack, fullback, 6-3, 262, 4.8, from Shiloh in Snellville was Gwinnett County Defensive Lineman of the Year after a junior season in which he had 89 tackles and five sacks. But despite his defensive accomplishments, he thinks he will play fullback in college. Pollack rushed for 590 yards on 70 carries with six touchdowns as a junior. He is a talented lead blocker and displays very good hands out of the backfield. He has a 32-inch vertical jump; repped 185 pounds 29 times; and punted for a 40-yard average. Pollack also finished second in the state in wrestling as a sophomore. He bench presses 345 pounds, squats 525, and power cleans 305. He has a 3.0 GPA and scored 1050 on the SAT. He is favoring Georgia, Georgia Tech, Clemson, Florida and Alabama and has offers from all five.

Willie Reid, running back, 5-11, 175, 4.4, out of Warner Robins was honored as the Middle Georgia Player of the Year. He rushed for 2,098 yards and 22 touchdowns as a junior, while displaying a slashing style mixed with some power. His senior year has seen no drop off, as he had 384 yards and

BAMA RECRUITING

Visits • Leanings • Commitments

**We talk to the players and report to you where they are going, leaning & signing
24 Hours Per Day**

**(press slot 2) (PREP)
1-900-370-7737**

Must be 18 years old

\$1.79 Per Minute

six touchdowns in just the first two games. He has a 36-inch vertical jump and he bench presses 270 pounds. He has a 2.8 GPA and scored 900 on the SAT. He will choose his school from a list that consists of Georgia, Georgia Tech, Florida State, Florida, Miami, Alabama, Auburn and Tennessee.

Derrick Tinsley, running back, 6-0, 180, 4.4, from Marietta is perhaps the fastest running back in Georgia. He broke out his sophomore year with 969 yards and 10 touchdowns, and was well on track to blow by that total when he broke his ankle in the second game of his junior year. He had 320 yards on 30 carries with four touchdowns before the injury. Tinsley made All-Cobb County and honorable mention all-state as a junior. So far his senior year he has over 900 yards in the first seven games. He runs a 10.5 100 meters, a 21.7 200 meters and he can long jump 23-10. He bench presses 280 pounds and squats 425. Tinsley has a 2.4 GPA and has scored 810 on the SAT. He will make Tennessee, Alabama, Clemson, Florida State, Florida or Nebraska very happy with his signature.

KENTUCKY

Teco Dickerson, free safety/wide receiver, 6-2, 193, 4.35, from Russellville is the 400-meter champion in Kentucky and a prolific star at running back and free safety. He has blazing speed that allowed him to rush for 913 yards (5.1 yards per carry) and 12 touchdowns, plus he was a dangerous receiver out of the backfield. Dickerson also threw the ball for 407 yards and five touchdowns for 22.6 yards per completion. On special teams he posted 402 yards in returns including two touchdowns. Defensively at a free safety he had 58 solo tackles, 31 assists, two interceptions and one blocked kick. He bench presses 220 pounds, squats 355 and power cleans 210. He has a 2.79 GPA and should qualify. He lists his choices as Indiana, Louisville, Alabama, Tennessee, Arkansas, Kentucky, Ball State, Minnesota, Cincinnati and Eastern Kentucky.

Eric Shelton, fullback, 6-2, 235, 4.45, out of Bryan Station in Lexington is a powerful runner, too much for high school teams to handle. As a junior he had 250 carries for 2,559 yards and 34 touchdowns. He made all-city, all-state and was a Gridiron Greats selection. As a senior he had 1,400 yards and 12 touchdowns. Defensively, he is very quick off the end, arriving at the quarterback in a split second. He had 51 tackles, five sacks and 18 tackles for loss as a junior. He bench presses 385 pounds, squats 500 and power cleans 325. He has a 3.4 GPA and made 19 on the ACT. He favors FSU, Ohio State, Tennessee, Florida, Alabama, LSU and Georgia Tech.

LOUISIANA

Michael Clayton, wide receiver, 6-4, 195, 4.4, from Christian Life in Baton Rouge is tall, has great speed and knows how to position his body against the defender. As a



Michael Clayton

quarterback, he completed 23 of 31 passes for 156 yards, one touchdown and one interception, while rushing for 238 yards and two touchdowns. But his forte is at receiver where he grabbed 21 passes for 418 yards and five touchdowns. Defensively, he posted 76 tackles and five interceptions as a junior defensive back. Clayton has a 35-inch vertical jump, which he uses as a receiver, defensive back, and a basketball player. He was chosen the Athlete of the Year in Louisiana as a junior. In football, he was selected all-district, all-metro and all-state, and he was also all-state in hoops. He has a 3.4 GPA and scored 17 on the ACT. He will choose from the likes of LSU, FSU, Miami, Alabama, Texas, Notre Dame, Georgia Tech and Tennessee.

Ronnie Prude, wide receiver, 6-0, 175, 4.34, from Fair Park in Shreveport is a super athlete who is playing quarterback in high school. He passed for 1,434 yards and 10 touchdowns as a junior, while rushing for 579 yards and nine more touchdowns. He runs a 10.5 hundred meters and has a 37-inch vertical jump. He made all-district and all-city in both football and basketball. He has a 3.3 GPA and scored 16 on the ACT. He is focused on LSU (leader), Georgia, Kentucky, Alabama and Southern Miss.

Karlín Riley, free safety, 6-2, 195, 4.5, from Opelousas is another athletic quarterback who is a special player. He is his team's best pure athlete, passing for 1,600 yards and 21 touchdowns. His football awareness at quarterback leads everyone to believe he will make a standout free safety in college. He made all-region as a junior and he should qualify academically. He is considering Southern Miss, Alabama, LSU, Texas A&M, Texas, Virginia Tech and Ole Miss.

MISSISSIPPI

Damarius Bilbo, quarterback, 6-3, 210, 4.6

from Moss Point is perhaps the top-rated quarterback in Mississippi. He is very adept at running the option offense, plus he throws well from the shotgun formation. Bilbo passed for 1,300 yards and 14 touchdowns as a junior, while rushing for 600 yards and seven touchdowns. He is an all-district performer who also handles all the kicking chores for his team. He bench presses 295 pounds and squats 380. He has a 3.3 GPA and scored 18 on the ACT. Bilbo also is a division one baseball prospect. He has expressed interest in Ole Miss, Georgia Tech, LSU, Alabama, Mississippi State and Tennessee.

Marcus Conner, free safety, 6-1, 201, 4.5, from South Panola is an athletic quarterback versatile enough to play running back, wide receiver, cornerback or safety in college. He played cornerback as a junior and had three interceptions for his efforts. He had a very good junior year and finished it by rushing for over 1,100 yards and 17 touchdowns. Conner made all-district his junior year and he has camped at Ole Miss. He bench presses 315 pounds and squats 415. He has a 2.4 GPA and should qualify. He lists his top three as LSU, Alabama and Ole Miss.

James Dean, fullback, 6-1, 221, 4.5, from South Panola has been publicized from his sophomore year forward, and he has lived up to expectations. He carried the ball 130 times as a junior for 1,258 yards and 17 touchdowns. He also had 60 carries for 500 yards and eight touchdowns on a talent-rich sophomore team, despite being injured that year. He made the all-district team and the Jackson Clarion Ledger's Dandy Dozen team. He bench presses 370 pounds and squats 520. He has a 2.8 GPA and made 15 on the ACT. Ole Miss is his front runner followed by Tennessee, LSU, Alabama, Texas and Marshall.

Chris Heath, free safety, 6-1, 180, 4.4, from Hattiesburg posted 76 tackles (34 solo, 42 assisted) as a junior, but it was his nine interceptions that really stand out, placing him second in the state in interceptions. He has a 37-inch vertical jump and is also a superb baseball player who will probably be drafted. Heath wants to play both sports in college and with numbers like a .365 batting average, a 7-1 record as a pitcher, and a 1.86 ERA who could blame him for wanting to explore his options? He bench presses 210 pounds, squats 320, has a 3.2 GPA and has scored 19 on the ACT. He lists LSU as his leader (both sports) followed by Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia Tech, Southern Miss and Mississippi State.

Lacorius Hodge, fullback, 6-1, 235, 4.6 from Clinton is an intimidating force at fullback who is virtually impossible for one man to tackle. He had an impressive 1600 yards and 25 touchdowns as a junior, after taking over for the departed Dontae Walker (MSU). Hodge is incredibly strong, bench

pressing 415 pounds and squatting 600. He has a 28-inch vertical jump, has a 2.5 GPA and has scored 16 on the ACT. He is committed to Mississippi State, but says he will look at LSU, Tennessee and Alabama.

Keith Houston, free safety, 6-4, 210, 4.6, from Philadelphia is a big free safety type who has blossomed into a major college prospect the past two seasons. He has snagged 11 interceptions over the past two seasons, including seven as a junior. He only bench presses 225 pounds, but he does squat 435. He has a 2.8 GPA and has scored 15 on the ACT. He prefers the likes of Alabama, Ole Miss, Tennessee, Mississippi State and LSU.

Clarence McDougal, strong safety, 6-1, 200, 4.45, from Clinton is one of the best strong safeties in the South. He is very athletic, versatile, and durable. He led a star-studded team in receptions with 17 for 362 yards and five touchdowns but he will play safety in college. Early playing time is a possibility due to his strength (315 bench press, 475 squat), leaping ability (32-inch vertical jump), speed and toughness. He finished his junior campaign with 80 tackles, two interceptions, two caused fumbles and one fumble recovery for a 35-yard touchdown. He also had 17 punt returns for 145 yards and two touchdowns. McDougal was named all-metro and second team all-state as a junior. He has a 2.3 GPA and can qualify with hard work. He is a commitment to Mississippi State but he says he will look at LSU, Auburn, Alabama and Tennessee.

Mike McLaughlin, place-kicker, 6-1, 190, 4.8, from Gautier is the South's best field goal man heading into the 2000 recruiting season. He has a very strong leg and can handle pressure kicks. He has only missed one field goal under 40 yards in his prep career. His junior year McLaughlin stepped up by going six of ten with a long of 48. His four misses were from 54, 48, 46, and 39 yards. On kickoffs, he puts it into the end zone 70 per cent of the time. He was selected to the all-district, All-Gulf Coast, and all-state teams. He bench presses 210 pounds, has a 3.8 GPA and scored 23 on the ACT. He will choose between Alabama and Tennessee. But if they fall through, look for Mississippi State (offered), LSU, Georgia, Notre Dame, Ole Miss and Tulane.

Vashon Pearson, running back, 6-0, 198, 4.5, from Ripley is a breakaway runner who makes defenders miss tackles with regularity. He rushed for 1,931 yards and 33 touchdowns as a junior, which came on top of a sophomore year that netted 600 yards and 13 touchdowns. Pearson bench presses 330 pounds and squats 450. He has scored 16 on the ACT and is expected to qualify. He lists his top two schools as Ole Miss and Alabama, but he will also look at LSU, Mississippi State and Memphis.

Ladwan Pratt, athlete, 6-1, 190, 4.5, from



Ingle Martin

Calhoun City played as a junior but will move to either wide receiver or free safety in college. He passed for 435 yards, eight touchdowns with only four interceptions as a junior, while running for 715 yards and 11 touchdowns. Pratt is also a stellar free safety who had 38 tackles, four interceptions (two returned for touchdowns) and six pass break ups. He bench presses 220 pounds, squats 410 and power cleans 215. He has a 2.5 GPA but must raise his ACT score. He is considering Ole Miss, Mississippi State, Alabama, LSU and Kentucky.

Kelvin Robinson, free safety, 6-2, 205, 4.5, from Lanier in Jackson is a talented safety prospect. He plays free safety in high school and he does a very good job at defending the field both deep and in the flats. He had four interceptions as a sophomore, returning one for an 80-yard touchdown. As a junior he had 22 tackles in the first four games, but he suffered a season-ending injury (broken arm) that has limited his publicity. Robinson has a 38-inch vertical jump, and he has camped at Mississippi State and Alabama. He bench presses 275 pounds and squats 485. He lists Alabama, Mississippi State, Ole Miss, Tulane and Tennessee.

TENNESSEE

Matt Henshaw, quarterback, 6-4, 195, 4.65, from Brentwood has been around football his entire life, which has carried over to his performance on the field. His father, George Henshaw, is an assistant coach with the Tennessee Titans and has also coached at FSU and Alabama. Matt picks up offensive schemes quickly, has a strong arm, and is very intelligent, mobile and dedicated. He passed for 2,500 yards as a junior with 19 touchdowns and 10 interceptions. He attended camps at Tennessee, Alabama, Florida State, West Virginia, and Bowden Academy. He bench presses 270 pounds,

squats 360 and power cleans 225. He carries a 2.8 GPA with a 23 ACT. Matt says his top three are Florida State, Tennessee and Alabama followed by Clemson and West Virginia.

Derron Johnson, free safety, 6-5, 208, 4.41, out of Melrose in Memphis may be the best free safety prospect in the South. He has great size, speed, intelligence, and ability. Johnson ranks as the state's number two player and could claim number one by season's end. Last year as a junior he was credited with 68 tackles, eight interceptions (one returned for a touchdown) and 15 caused fumbles. He has a 39-inch vertical jump and was named to the all-state team last year after a tremendous junior campaign. He bench presses 235 pounds and squats 320, which means he must get stronger to perform at the same level in college. He has a 3.1 GPA and should have no problem with the qualifying tests. He says he favors Alabama, Kentucky, Florida, FSU, Tennessee, Georgia, Clemson and Penn State.

Ingle Martin, quarterback, 6-4, 205, 4.55, out of Montgomery Bell Academy in Nashville ranks as the state's best player. He is the prototype quarterback with a great arm, terrific mobility, pocket awareness and field generalship. He has a very quick release that triggered him to 1,450 yards passing (97 completions on 140 attempts) and 14 touchdowns as a junior, throwing only two interceptions. Plus, he rushed for 685 yards and 16 touchdowns. He was honored with all-state, Team Offensive MVP, Mid-State Offensive Player of the Year, and Division II AA Mr. Football. As a sophomore he was a starter on the defensive side of the ball, which has some schools thinking of making him a defensive back. He displayed his enormous talent at several camps this summer including Alabama, Ole Miss, Tennessee, Michigan and Georgia. He bench presses 240 pounds, squats 430 and power cleans 260. He has a 2.33 GPA and has scored 1190 on the SAT. He says he will take a serious look at Georgia, Tennessee, Michigan, Alabama, Ole Miss, Purdue and Miami.

Sean Sanderson, fullback, 6-3, 250, 4.56, from Farragut can play either fullback or middle linebacker, and regardless of where he positions himself, he is an intimidating presence. He played just four games at fullback and yet produced 573 yards, six touchdowns, 6.4 yards per carry and 143 yards per game. At linebacker he had 112 tackles (89 solo), eight sacks, three interceptions, caused four fumbles and made two fumble recoveries. As a junior he was selected all-region, All-East Tennessee, honorable mention all-state and Team Defensive MVP. He bench presses 350 pounds; power cleans 320, has a 3.1 core GPA and made 19 on the ACT. He has committed to Michigan but Alabama may try to change his mind.

Tide Sports Add Quality Performers

by Tim Watts
and Donna Fromme

Men's basketball has big haul with three additions

Alabama Men's Basketball Coach Mark Gottfried and his staff have proved to be excellent recruiters, and the early signing period for sports other than football in November provided another example of that prowess. The Bama backcourt would seem to be solidified for several years with the addition of two signees and Bama also added a highly-regarded forward.

The new men's basketball additions include guards Maurice "Mo" Williams of Jackson, Mississippi, and Earnest Shelton of Memphis, Tennessee, and forward Kei Madison of Columbiana.

Although Williams was the first player to commit to Alabama, announcing his intentions to sign with the Crimson Tide last summer, he provided the greatest drama of the early signing period. A rumor was rampant that Williams had decided to wait until the spring signing period in April, a decision that would not have been encouraging in the Crimson Tide camp. However, that proved to be false information and on his mother's birthday, Sunday, November 12, Williams signed with Bama. Shelton had inked with Alabama on the first day of the early signing period, November 8, while Madison waited until the final day, November 15. In April it is likely that Alabama will be going after an inside player or two.

Williams, 6-1, was regarded as one of the nation's top point guards and was ranked among the country's top 15 prospects by *The Sporting News*. Last year at Murrah High School (the alma mater of former Tide guard James Robinson) Williams averaged 25.8 points, 7.3 assists, 4.5 rebounds, and 2.7 steals per game, leading his team to a 28-4 record and the Mississippi Class A finals. He was all-state and Metro Player of the Year as a junior.

Williams is known as a floor leader. He has an excellent outside shot and is a good defensive player. He picked Alabama over Texas, Indiana, Mississippi, and Georgetown.

Shelton is a 6-3 shooting guard who plays at White Station High School. Last year he averaged 21.4 points, six rebounds and four steals per game in leading his team to a 34-4



Earnest Shelton

record and the Class AAA state title. He scored 19 points in the championship game and was named tournament MVP. For the year he connected on an impressive 126 three-point shots.

Shelton is a good student, boasting a 3.4 grade point average and 21 ACT, and hopes to major in pre-med. He was ranked among the nation's top five shooting guard prospects.

Gottfried gave much of the credit for Alabama landing Shelton to Johnny Jones, the Tide's new assistant coach who was interim head coach at Memphis University last year. Shelton chose Alabama over Wake Forest and Tennessee.

Madison, a 6-9, 225-pound forward, played at Iowa Western Junior College in Council Bluff, Iowa, last season. He is rated as the number one junior college forward prospect in the nation by *The Sporting News*. Madison averaged 16 points and 12 rebounds per game last year. He was dismissed from the team this season due to an undisclosed violation of team rules. As a result, he plans to transfer to Southern Union Junior College in Wadley (where his brother plays) to complete his academic requirements. Because this amounts to a redshirt season for him, beginning in 2001-02 he will have three years of eligibility remaining.

He is a native of Columbiana. Following his high school career at Shelby County High School, where he averaged 21 points and 18 rebounds per game as a senior in 1998, he spent the 1999 season at a prep school, New Hampton Prep in New Hampshire, then signed with Indiana.

However, he was not yet academically eligible, and so entered Iowa Western. This year he selected Bama over Indiana.

Madison played for Team Indiana against the USA All-Stars in May of 1999, scoring 13 points in the game which featured several high school All-Americans. CBS Sportsline rated him among the nation's top forward prospects.

Rick Moody, head coach of the Alabama women's basketball team, added two new performers in the early signing period, both of them high school seniors.

Donyel Wheeler, a 5-2 point guard from Birmingham Huffman, was an all-state performer as a junior who has been named to several preseason prep All-America teams. She averaged 21.3 points per game last season. She has helped Huffman to three consecutive area championships.

Katy Sipe of Hillsboro, Tennessee, is a 5-10 outside shooter from Coffee County High School in Manchester. She was an all-mid-state performer last year as she averaged 18 points and 6.2 rebounds per game. She has also participated in AAU ball for three years and helped her team to the 2000 national championship.

As the men, Bama's women's team will be looking to add post players with a couple of scholarships in the spring signing period.

Baseball Coach Jim Wells lost a number of players to graduation, the professional baseball draft, and via the transfer route at the conclusion of last season. But Wells doesn't let a little thing like rebuilding bother him. He and his staff went out and added 23 new players in the early signing period. There is a likelihood that some of these will be drafted in next year's pro selections. The new baseball Tiders are:

Outfielder Chad Abernathy of Independence, Missouri; right-handed pitcher Josh Baker of Houston; right-handed pitcher Jeff Balser of Venice, Florida, and Polk Community College; right-handed pitcher Coley Blakeney of Fayette; catcher Dusty Brown of Prescott, Arizona, and Yavapai Community College; right-handed pitcher Allen Browne of Dothan and Central Alabama Community College; left-handed pitcher Brent Carter of Americus, Georgia; catcher Bo Hannah of Tuscaloosa; right-handed pitcher Martin LaRocca of Metairie, Louisiana, and Meridian (Mississippi) Community College; left-handed pitcher/outfielder Jacob Legg of Hartselle; right-handed pitcher Dewayne Marlowe of Tuscaloosa; right-handed pitcher Eric Mennen of Decatur; infielder Trey Moody of Huntsville; right-handed pitcher



Jacob Legg

Brian Reed of Amory, Mississippi, and Meridian Community College; infielder Allen Rice of Pelham; shortstop Carlos de Jesus Sosa of Veracruz, Mexico, and Pensacola (Florida) Junior College; right-handed pitcher Gary Sullivan of Andalusia and Wallace Community College; left-handed pitcher Taylor Tankersley of Vicksburg, Mississippi; outfielder Jonathan Van Every of Jackson, Mississippi, and Itawamba Community College; outfielder/left-handed pitcher Zac Welch of Alexandria; shortstop Eric West of Gadsden; and catcher/first baseman Bud Woodruff of Tuscaloosa.

The gymnastics team of Coach Sarah Patterson, whose squad includes four seniors, has three new signees to help in the re-stocking process. They are Alexis Brion of Kimpssville High School in Virginia Beach, Virginia; Shannon Hrozek of The Woodlands High School, Texas; and Michelle Reeser of St. Frederick High School in Monroe, Louisiana.

Brion is a veteran of national and international competition, including the USA vs. Ukraine meet, the Pacific Ocean Games, the Hungarian Invitational, the U.S. Olympic Festival, and the Rosebowl Invitational in Canada. She competes for Excalibur Gymnastics.

Hrozek, a member of the 1998 Junior Olympic National Team, finished second in



Eric Mennen

the all-around at the 1998 Junior Olympic National Championships. She finished in the all-around top 10 at the Junior Olympic National Championships three years in a row, 1998-2000. Hrozek competes for Flips Gymnastics.

Reeser, 4-foot 9-inch dynamo, was the first gymnast in Northeast Louisiana to qualify as an elite level gymnast. She finished second on the floor exercise at both the American Challenge and the U.S. Challenge. Reeser led Region 8 to a second place at the 1997 Level 10 National Championships. She competes for River City Gymnastics.

The volleyball team of Coach Judy Green did not have to look far to find an outstanding signee. Jennifer Cusimano has been the state's 1A Most Valuable Player twice as the leader of the volleyball team at Tuscaloosa's Holy Spirit School. She signed with her hometown university, picking the Crimson Tide over Tulane, Michigan State, Arkansas and Tennessee.

Cusimano had career statistics of 1,517 kills, 348 aces, and 392 blocks for Coach Holly Collins. Her team won back-to-back state championships.

The softball team of Coach Pat Murphy also found help in Tuscaloosa. The Tide inked Casey Cockrum of



Allen Rice



Alexis Brion

Tuscaloosa Central. Although Cockrum is an outstanding pitcher, she will be used as a first baseman or designated hitter for the Crimson Tide. She was 17-7 as a pitcher last year, but also batted .325. She is also an outstanding student who will be on academic scholarship as she has a perfect 4.0 grade point average and made 30 on the ACT.

Also joining the Tide softball team is Jaclyn Wilkins of Miami, Florida. Wilkins prepped at Gulliver Prep where as a junior she was a Louisville Slugger All-South Region selection and first team all-state pick. She was also named a finalist in the *Miami Herald* All-Dade County Athlete of the Year.

Women's Golf Coach Betty Palmer has added Darby Sligh of North Augusta, South Carolina. A standout prep player for North August High School, Sligh has been named all-state three times. She has posted a pair of top three finishes at the South Carolina state tournament. A medalist in the Carolinas Junior Girls Championship, she has also captured titles at the SCJGA Players Championship and Ford-Picard Christmas Classic. Sligh has twice qualified for the U.S. Girls Junior Championship including a 19th-place finish at this past summer's event. As a junior player, she was ranked second in the state of South Carolina in 2000.



Shannon Hrozek



Michelle Reeser



Jaclyn Wilkins



Darby Sligh

2000-2001 Alabama Winter Sports Schedules

Men's Basketball

UA/Date	Opponent	Opp./CST
63	Global Sports (Exh.)	57
95	Athletes In Action (Exh.)	87
Nov. 20	Troy State	7:00
Nov. 25	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	7:00
Nov. 30	Louisville (Fox Sports TV)	7:00
Dec. 4	Grambling	7:00
Dec. 7	Wofford	7:00
Dec. 9	Akron @ Birmingham (Also, Auburn vs. Detroit)	TBA
Dec. 16	North Texas @ Mobile Coors Classic	9:05
(Also, South Alabama vs. Louisville)		
Puerto Rico Holiday Classic @ San Juan		
Dec. 20	Northern Iowa	
(Subsequent games to be determined. Other teams are Clemson, Florida Atlantic, Cincinnati, Youngstown State, American University-Puerto Rico, Washington)		
Dec. 30	Alabama State	7:00
Jan. 2	Southeast Louisiana	7:00
Jan. 6	@ LSU (J-P TV)	12:30 or 3:00
Jan. 9	@ Tennessee (ESPN)	8:00
Jan. 13	Mississippi State (SEC TV)	5:00
Jan. 17	Ole Miss (J-P TV)	7:00
Jan. 20	@ Arkansas (SEC TV)	4:00
Jan. 23	Kentucky (ESPN)	8:00
Jan. 27	Auburn	7:00
Jan. 31	@ Vanderbilt	TBA
Feb. 3	LSU	7:00
Feb. 7	@ Mississippi State	7:00
Feb. 10	Georgia	7:00
Feb. 14	South Carolina	7:00
Feb. 17	Ohio State (CBS)	2:30
Feb. 21	@ Auburn	TBA
Feb. 24	@ Florida (J-P TV)	Noon
Feb. 28	Arkansas (J-P TV)	7:00
March 3	@ Ole Miss	TBA
March 8-	SEC Tournament	TBA
March 11-	@ Nashville	

Men's Swimming

Date/UA Score	Opponent	Time (CT)/Opp. Score
Oct. 6	SEC Sectional	Second
127	Florida	110
128.5	@ LSU	169.5
109.5	Auburn	184.5
Nov. 30-	U.S. Open @ Auburn	All Day
Dec. 2		
Dec. 1-3	Bama Diving Invite	All Day
Dec. 2-3	Bama Open	All-Day
Jan. 6	@ Georgia	1:00
Jan. 19	Florida State	1:00
Jan. 20	Clemson	1:00
Feb. 3	South Carolina	1:00
Feb. 21-24	SEC Championships	All Day
Mar. 3	Last Chance @ Auburn	TBA
Mar. 9-11	NCAA Diving Zones @ Athens	
Mar. 22-	NCAA Championships	
Mar. 24	@ College Station, Tex.	All Day
Mar. 27-	USS National Championships	
April 2	@ Austin, Texas	All Day
April 6-	U.S. Diving Zone	
April 8	@ Orlando	All Day
April 17-	U.S. Diving Championships	
April 22	@ Bloomington, Ind.	All Day

Women's Basketball

UA/Date	Opponent	Opp./CST
89	Uralmash BC, Russia (Exh.)	69
109	SBC Prerov, Czech. (Exh.)	61
66	@ Samford	42
Nov. 22	Tulane	7:00
Illinois-Chicago Thanksgiving Tourney		
Nov. 24	California	4:30
Nov. 25	Illinois-Chicago or South Alabama	1:00 or 3:30
Nov. 28	@ South Alabama	7:00
Dec. 2	@ Belmont	2:00
Dec. 6	Memphis	7:00
Dec. 10	Michigan State (ESPN)	TBA
Sun Splash @ Nassau, Bahamas		
Dec. 20	Creighton	6:00
Dec. 21	Eastern Michigan or Oklahoma State	6:00 or 8:00
St. Peter's Holiday @ Jersey City, N.J.		
Dec. 29	Massachusetts	4:30
Dec. 30	Fairleigh Dickinson or St. Peter's	4:30 or 6:30
Jan. 4	Alabama A&M	7:00
Jan. 7	@ Georgia	TBA
Jan. 11	Auburn	7:00
Jan. 14	South Carolina	2:00
Jan. 18	Ole Miss	7:00
Jan. 21	@ Mississippi State	2:00
Jan. 25	@ Kentucky	6:00
Jan. 28	@ Ole Miss	2:00
Feb. 1	Arkansas	7:00
Feb. 4	Tennessee	2:00
Feb. 8	@ LSU	7:00
Feb. 11	@ Auburn	2:00
Feb. 18	@ Vanderbilt	2:00
Feb. 22	Georgia	7:00
Feb. 25	Florida	2:00
March 1-	SEC Tournament	
March 4	@ Memphis	TBA

Women's Swimming

Date/UA Score	Opponent	Time (CT)/Opp. Score
Oct. 6	SEC Sectional	Second
102	Florida	136
173	@ LSU	123
112	Auburn	186
Nov. 30-	U.S. Open @ Auburn	All Day
Dec. 2		
Dec. 1-3	Bama Diving Invite	All Day
Dec. 2-3	Bama Open	All-Day
Jan. 6	@ Georgia	1:00
Jan. 19	Florida State	1:00
Jan. 20	Clemson	1:00
Feb. 3	South Carolina	1:00
Feb. 21-24	SEC Championships	All Day
Feb. 25	Last Chance	10:00 a.m.
Mar. 9-11	NCAA Diving Zones @ Athens	
Mar. 15-	NCAA Championships	
Mar. 17	@ Long Island, N.Y.	All Day
Mar. 27-	USS National Championships	
April 2	@ Austin, Texas	All Day
April 6-	U.S. Diving Zone	
April 8	@ Orlando	All Day
April 17-	U.S. Diving Championships	
April 22	@ Bloomington, Ind.	All Day

Gymnastics

Date	Opponent	Time (CST)
Jan. 8	Super Six Challenge (Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Stanford, Michigan, Penn State)	6:00
Jan. 12	Auburn	7:00
Jan. 19	@ Florida	6:00
Jan. 28	Cal-State Fullerton, UCLA @ Los Angeles	2:00
Feb. 2	LSU	7:00
Feb. 9	Auburn @ Birmingham	TBA
Feb. 16	Georgia	7:00
Feb. 24	Kentucky	7:00
March 3	@ Georgia	6:30
March 17	Penn State, Rutgers, Cornell @ State College, Pa.	6:00
March 23	SEC Championships @ Birmingham	TBA
April 7	NCAA Region IV	6:00
April 19-	NCAA Championships	
April 21	@ Athens, Ga.	

Men's Indoor Track

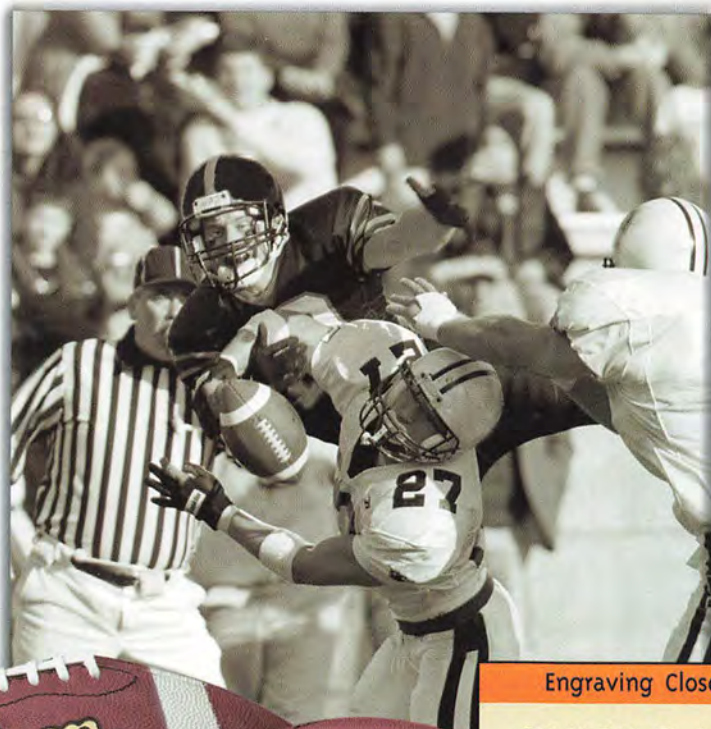
Date	Event
Jan. 20	SEC Four-Way @ Baton Rouge (Alabama, Mississippi State, Auburn, LSU)
Jan. 26-27	@ Arkansas
Feb. 3	@ Florida
Feb. 9-10	@ Iowa State
Feb. 24-25	SEC Championships @ Lexington
March 2-3	USATF @ Atlanta
March 10-11	NCAA Championships @ Fayetteville

Women's Indoor Track

Date	Event
Jan. 13	Purple Tiger @ Baton Rouge
Jan. 20	SEC Four-Way @ Baton Rouge (Alabama, Mississippi State, Auburn, LSU)
Feb. 27	Illinois Invitational @ Champaign, Ill.
Feb. 9-10	Virginia Tech Invitational @ Blacksburg
Feb. 24-25	SEC Championships @ Lexington
March 2	Florida Last Chance @ Gainesville
March 10-11	NCAA Championships @ Fayetteville

A Glorious Tradition...

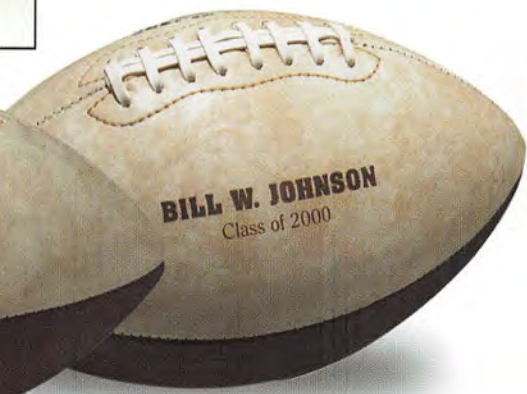
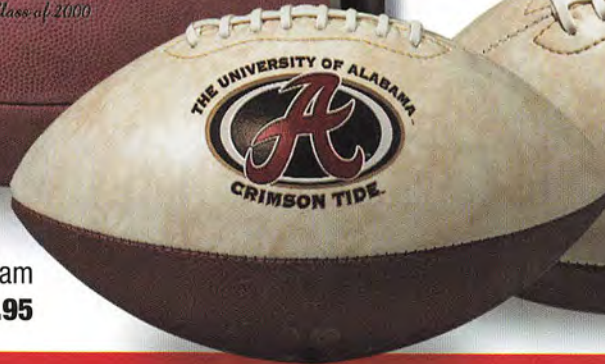
Engrave your name on the Crimson Tide football.



Get in the Game
personally for **\$89.95**



Get on the Team
personally for **\$49.95**



Engraving Close Up
*Bill W. Johnson
State University
Class of 2000*

justballs!
WWW.JUSTBALLS.COM

ORDER ONLINE:
www.justballs.com

PHONE ORDERS:
1-800-595-5464 x 101

FAX ORDERS:
609-919-1235

Mail your order to:
JustBalls, PO Box 3321, Princeton, NJ 08540

Purchaser Information:

Name _____ Day Phone _____

CHARGE TO: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMX ☐ DISCOVER

Acct. # _____

Signature _____ Exp. Date _____

Shipping Information:

Name _____ Day Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Engraving: Up to 3 lines - 15 characters per line - PLEASE PRINT

☐ Game Ball - **\$89.95**

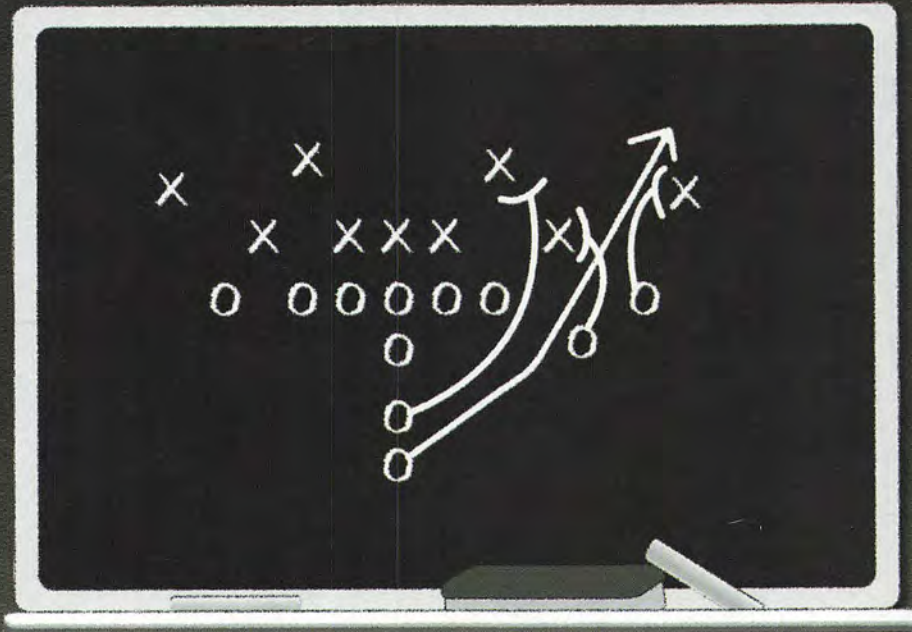
☐ Team Ball - **\$49.95**

ADD \$6.95 SHIPPING & HANDLING (Standard Ground)
(NJ & PA residents MUST add 6% Sales Tax)

Checks should be made payable to JUSTBALLS

e-mail address _____

MAKE THE BIG PLAY...



The Magazine For The Crimson Tide Football Fan. The Magazine For You. Month After Month 'BAMA Brings You The Inside Scoop On Crimson Tide Football. Not Just The Headlines.

'Bama Magazine has been giving Alabama fans the inside story on all aspects of Crimson Tide Football since 1979. Readers get the facts and figures, but also get the story behind the story. We profile the stars and the stars-to-be, coaches, and even the stars of yesteryear as we remember Alabama tradition. And for the best and most accurate recruiting information, nothing compares.

A subscription brings you 10 full-color magazines and 14 newsletters mailed first class.

We don't stop with football season, either. Keep up with all Alabama sports, August through May. Great gift idea, too!

Make the big play to get on the inside of Crimson Tide football. Return the coupon or for immediate service, just call toll-free **1-800-713-2261.**

PLEASE SEND ME ONE YEAR (24 ISSUES) OF 'BAMA FOR ONLY \$35.00.

Total amount enclosed \$_____ for _____ subscriptions. Alabama residents add \$2.00 sales tax to each order. Overseas add \$10.00 each order.

☐ Payment Enclosed

Make checks payable to:

☐ Mastercard

'BAMA Magazine

☐ Visa

P.O. Box 866104

Tuscaloosa, AL 35486

Bank Card# _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Please Print

TO: (Name) _____

(Address) _____

(City) _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone Number _____ New Subscription _____ Renewal _____

If This Is A Gift,
Gift From: (Name) _____

(Address) _____

(City) _____ State _____ Zip _____